

Russians step up pressure before Shultz Moscow visit

Short-range missiles offer by Gorbachov

By Andrew McEwen in London and Richard Bassett in Prague

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov yesterday announced that the Soviet Union was ready to start immediate negotiations on reducing tactical or short-range missiles in Europe.

Almost on the eve of East-West talks in Moscow, the Soviet leader appeared to be adopting one of the West's key demands.

His speech in Prague was seen in Whitehall as improving the chances of agreement in talks between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and his Soviet opposite number, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mrs Thatcher - and Nato as a whole - have made an agreement to negotiate on short-range missiles a precondition for a treaty on medium-range weapons.

Both East and West view a so-called INF agreement - meaning elimination from Europe of Soviet SS 20s and US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles - as a control area most likely to succeed.

Before Mr Gorbachov's speech there remained substantial differences on the extent to which a medium-range missile deal should be linked to progress on short-range weapons.

The initial reaction of arms control experts was that his proposal left differences which were still significant, but less daunting.

Whitehall sources said that the Gorbachov offer went beyond previous statements and looked as if it would improve the chances of success, although a close study of the

Prague speech and consultations with allies would be needed before an official view was given.

The sources were less happy about the context in which Mr Gorbachov placed his plan. He saw the ultimate objective as elimination of all such weapons, a total contrast with Nato's wish for parity first followed by a lowering of the ceiling.

Mr Gorbachov also substantially raised the stakes on hopes for a chemical

The six US Marine guards at the American Consulate in Leningrad are being brought home as a precautionary measure because of the embassy bugging scandal, the State Department announced in Washington yesterday.

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weapons treaty. He announced that Moscow had stopped making such weapons and had built a plant to liquidate them once an agreement had been reached.

"We are in favour of an international convention this year on chemical weapons," he said. "Starting operation of this enterprise will make it possible quickly to realize the process of chemical disarmament after the conclusion of an international convention."

Whitehall sources pointed out that international talks in Geneva had seemed close to such an agreement until they stalled on the issue of challenge inspection. The Americans have stressed the importance of stringent

verification safeguards, including a right for each alliance to inspect bases in the other's territory at short notice in the event of suspected cheating. The Soviet Union refused to accept this, but agreed in principle to a British compromise on the challenge inspection issue.

On short-range and tactical missiles, Mr Gorbachov said the Kremlin would pledge not to increase its stocks of such weapons if Nato countries did the same. He added that he would not tie the proposed talks to progress in reducing medium-range missiles in Europe.

The announcements followed his February 28 proposal to negotiate a superpower agreement on scrapping medium-range missiles in Europe. In this he effectively adopted a 1981 Nato proposal and dropped the linkage he had imposed at the Reykjavik summit between an INF deal and Star Wars.

Abandoning this linkage vastly improved the prospects for a third Reagan-Gorbachov summit in Washington this year - a prospect which Administration sources now see as a strong possibility.

Mr Gorbachov offered yesterday to remove Soviet short-range missiles deployed in Czechoslovakia and East Germany in retaliation for Nato's deployment of cruise and Pershing 2, provided that talks on short-range missiles proved successful.

He also called for a meeting of foreign ministers of the 35 signatories of the Helsinki Final Act to discuss reductions in conventional forces stationed in Europe.



The Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov, and his wife, Raisa, going walkabout in the streets of Prague before he delivered his keynote speech yesterday on East-West arms control.

Saunders 'ordered diaries and papers to be shredded'

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness ordered papers, correspondence and diaries to be destroyed after government inspectors walked into the company, his former personal assistant claimed in the High Court yesterday.

In an affidavit Mrs Margaret McGrath, told how Mr Saunders had been "unusually insistent" that his 1986 office diary be destroyed, and how his address book had been removed from the office and returned with entries cut out.

She also claimed that Mr Saunders ordered her to erase references in diaries to meetings he had held with Mr Meshulam Riklis, the American entrepreneur who is married to the actress Pia Zadora.

According to Mrs McGrath, Mr Saunders also ordered her to shred any correspondence with Mr Riklis and to remove various letters from files relating to the takeover of the Distillers Company, which she later gave to Mr Saunders.

He never returned them, she claims. "He seemed very sensitive about being linked to Mr Riklis".

Lawyers acting for

Guinness interviewed Mrs McGrath in Majorca.

Mr Philip Heslop QC, counsel for Mr Saunders, tried to prevent the statement being used in evidence but Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, ruled that it was relevant to the issues at stake.

Guinness is suing Mr Saunders and Mr Thomas Ward, a fellow director, over a £5.2 million payment to a

Court hearing.....25

Jersey company. In the present court action Mr Saunders and Mr Ward are seeking to have orders freezing their assets lifted.

Department of Trade inspectors moved into the company on December 1 to investigate the company's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers in April 1986.

In her affidavit Mrs McGrath claims that just before Christmas 1986, Mr Saunders removed papers from files relating to the Guinness bid for Distillers and gave them to his secretary, Miss Melanie Burford.

"She put these documents into a large envelope of the

type we used in the office for papers waiting to be shredded. It was obvious to me because of this they were going to be shredded," she says.

She tells how that it was "normal practice" to keep the previous year's diary for a period of time after the year-end. However "Mr Saunders was particularly anxious that the office diary be destroyed at the end of the year," she says.

"He repeatedly reminded me in December 1986 to do this. He asked me how I had destroyed in 1 and I told him that I had shredded it."

She did so despite a memorandum from Mr Oliver Roux, then Guinness finance director, that no documents of any kind should be destroyed until after the DTI investigation was finished. "Mr Saunders had been unusually insistent," she says.

The statement also claims he asked her to delete a reference in his diary to an appointment in Zurich in November last year with a Mr Heuberg. It tells how after Mr Saunders left Guinness's offices for the last time, his address books were removed from the office.

US rejects BA drive for 'free Europe' tickets

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A revolutionary British Airways plan to boost the number of American tourists to Britain and Europe has been torpedoed at the last minute by the US Government.

Under the scheme, which could have become the blueprint for aviation agreements between Britain and America and forced Europe to act as a single continent, British Airways' trans-Atlantic passengers would have been given free tickets to any of 45 cities in Europe from Heathrow Airport.

But a combination of US airline pressure and European refusal to accept innovation and change led to the proposal being banned by the Department of Transportation in Washington.

British Airways, which had spent more than a million dollars on advertising the new fares and had taken several thousand bookings, was last night shocked at the decision. It plans to defy the American ruling by carrying those passengers who have already booked - and risk a fine of up to \$1,000 per person.

British Airways had planned the campaign, called "Europe on us", which was designed to attract American tourists to Britain during the traditional spring low season.

But late on Wednesday evening the Department of Transportation formally

turned down its fare proposals. Immediately the British reacted in a "tit for tat" move by stopping the American airlines, TWA and Pan Am, from selling tickets to British tourists wanting to visit other American cities beyond their point of entry for the same fare.

The dispute is bound to lead to a new debate over the "unfair" American aviation agreement with Britain and to reopen the arguments about

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Europe becoming one vast aviation market.

British Airways had been working on its innovative proposal for months. The idea was to attract American tourists, who had stayed away from Britain last year in the wake of the spate of terrorist attacks, by offering a round trip to any of British Airways' 45 European destinations free to anyone who bought a ticket to Heathrow with British Airways.

The airline was convinced that the proposals were in line with both British and American government policy and began advertising the offer widely in US newspapers.

Within the first 24 hours of the advertisements appearing the airline had received more than 1,000 firm bookings and

Continued on page 22, col 8

Plot 'was hatched to noble jury'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A highly organized plan to "noble" the jury in a £500,000 robbery trial was disclosed yesterday when two armed robbers were each jailed for 22 years at the Central Criminal Court.

According to police in court a list of the names and addresses of a potential jury reached a London gang. Earlier a colleague of the robbers had been freed from prison by accomplices to take part in the nobbling campaign, but he was quickly recaptured.

The identities of the 500 strong jury panel from which the jury would be chosen were obtained legitimately by a defence lawyer under section 5 of the 1974 Juries Act.

A detective told the court he thought the list had somehow fallen into the wrong hands. Police believe a gang of South-East London criminals would have set about organizing an operation to target jurors. The list was obtained for the first of two juries which tried the case.

According to police after the trial, money was no object. A

detective said. "The list would have been reduced to 12 and our information was that little teams of criminal were in a position to move in on jurors, monitoring and keeping surveillance." They would then make approaches.

A 24-hour police guard was put on both juries during the three-week case, and police believe they saw criminals following one juror.

The two men convicted yesterday were John Reed, aged 39, a company director of Rotherhithe, south London, and Peter Mitchell, aged 31, a car dealer of Barking, Essex. Both were convicted of robbing a Brink's Mat van and firearms offences.

Several years ago Reed was a suspect in a major police investigation into armed robbers, code-named Operation Carter. He has been acquitted three times of armed robbery charges.

Sentencing Reed and Mitchell, Mr Justice Ognall told them they were ruthless and had shown "a chilling

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INSIDE Nurses' strike threat

The Royal College of Nursing has taken its first-ever move towards industrial action. The RCN Congress in Glasgow voted to take action if the Government interferes with the nurses and midwives pay review body award.....Page 2

IN PART 2 Dassler dies

Horst Dassler, the man behind Adidas and who wielded great power within the major sporting federations, has died after a brief illness aged 51.

Obituary: page 20

David Miller: page 42

Pension poser

What will happen to your pension in January next year? Family Money looks at the implications of the Finance Bill.....Pages 28-36

Portfolio

● There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - the weekly prize of £8,000 plus the daily £4,000.
● Yesterday's £4,000 was won by Mr M.B. Petre, of west London. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio daily list, page 27; weekly check, page 35.

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Inflation edges up to 12-month high

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Inflation edged up to 4 per cent last month, its highest for a year, from 3.9 per cent in February. The rate is expected to dip to about 3.5 per cent in May, figures for which will be published on June 12, before rising again in the summer.

Last month's inflation rate was better than the City had expected but failed to prevent a sharp fall in share prices.

The markets were unsettled by the dollar's fall, particularly against the yen, because of an unsatisfactory outcome to the Washington meeting of the

finance ministers of the leading economies.

The dollar plunged to a post-war low of ¥142.50 against the yen, setting off fears of higher interest rates, while protectionist worries continued to dominate market sentiment. Sterling rose nearly a cent to \$1.6275 against the weak dollar but lost ground against other currencies.

The FT 30-share index, more than 30 points down at one stage, ended with a 22.4-point fall to 1,523.8.

Inflation climbs, page 23

Education reforms Cash control offer to heads

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The Conservatives would put head teachers of secondary and primary schools with more than 200 pupils in complete control of their budgets within four years of returning to power. Mr Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, told a head teachers' conference yesterday.

He said that legislation would be brought forward in the next Parliament. The issue is expected to stand alongside proposals for a head teachers' staff college as major features in the party's manifesto.

"The over-centralization of decision-making in the town hall has greatly impaired the vitality and self-confidence of the schools as individual institutions," Mr Baker told the Secondary Heads Association conference in Nottingham.

"Typically, to get a window repaired requires several approaches to the county or

staff maximum and a budget set by the local authority. Beyond that, they would be free to decide priorities between spending on teaching staff and on other things." Head teachers would be able to carry expenditure over from one year into the next.

A pilot scheme in Cambridgeshire has been extended to the whole county and is likely to offer a national model.

Mr Baker said that local authorities would "continue to be the paymasters and employers" and would be responsible for the employment and conditions of service of teachers and teaching standards.

Mr Baker also told the heads that he intended to replace the imposed advisory committee on teachers' pay, the chief reason for the wave of half-day strikes by the two largest unions, with new negotiating machinery.

On what Mr David Steel described as a night of defeat and disaster for Labour, there were modest increases in the Tory vote and sizeable increases for the Liberals and Social Democrats.

Alliance strategists claimed that three Labour defectors were switching to them for every one who moved to the Tories.

They said that the Government was reluctant to call a general election with the Alliance riding high.

Conservatives will be heartened, however, that their party was the principal beneficiary of Labour defections in the safe home counties by-election, in Basingstoke.

Alliance victories hit Labour hard

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Alliance were rejoicing yesterday at a string of council by-elections on Thursday night which indicated a haemorrhaging of the Labour vote in what are considered its safest areas.

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Conservatives will be heartened, however, that their party was the principal beneficiary of Labour defections in the safe home counties by-election, in Basingstoke.

The Alliance seized seats from Labour in Liverpool, Knowsley and Lewisham. Labour lost a seat in Basingstoke to the Tories, and held only a rock-solid seat in Southwark, south-east London.

In the five by-elections the Labour vote collapsed by between 7 and 22 per cent while the Alliance vote increased by between 2 and 20 per cent.

The Conservatives went up by 2 per cent in Lewisham and 13 per cent in Basingstoke but dropped 2 per cent in Liverpool.

Mr Steel said: "Labour's smug assumption that whatever else happens it will be able to hang on to seats in its traditional areas has been shattered."

Mr John Cartwright, the SDP chief whip, hailed the results as evidence of continued Alliance progress among troubled Labour voters.

Aids death toll was almost one a day in March

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Another 28 people died of Aids in March bringing the rate to almost one a day, and the number of deaths so far to 405.

Figures from the Department of Health showed there were 32 new cases reported during the month, making a total of 734 people who have developed the disease, including those who have died.

The official forecast is that 4,000 people will die from Aids by 1990, and the estimate of people currently infected is between 30,000 and 40,000.

The details are contained in the first of a series of quarterly reports on Aids.

published yesterday by the DHSS with the monthly update. They provide a breakdown of the cases in each of the 14 regional health authorities, and for Wales, Scotland and North Ireland.

A pattern emerges of an enormous concentration of the illness in London, with the highest incidence, 346 cases, in the North-West Thames region, which has had 174 deaths. It is followed by North-East Thames with 137 cases and 68 deaths, and South-East Thames with 66 cases and 36 deaths.

The North Western region, which includes Manchester, comes next with 32 cases and 19 deaths. The Northern

region, which includes Newcastle, had 21 cases and 16 deaths.

Since the last set of monthly figures, the monitoring and analysis of records was transferred to computer. This revealed duplicate records for 29 cases, which have been removed from the cumulative totals.

But the picture of the spread of infection shown by the HIV antibody tests is causing serious concern to public health experts.

Of 5,571 individuals in Britain who are HIV antibody positive, 1,100 - or 20 per cent of them - are in Scotland. And, whereas reports in England, Wales and Northern Ireland show

only 5 per cent of HIV positive people are in Scotland, the proportion is 27 per cent women, mostly drug abusers.

Since there is a relatively small number of drug abusers among the people who have so far developed the disease, an increasing proportion of Aids cases are expected from among this group, especially in Scotland.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said it was important to provide full information about Aids so the public knew what the position really was.

Sex and Aids, page 3

How the police can help

Twelve features that put James Meade Shirts in a class of their own

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NEWS SUMMARY

Minister rises to Cleese challenge

An offer by John Cleese, the comedian, of a free lunch to anyone who can find extremism in Alliance-run councils could result in a whirlwind trade for Fawley Towers, a Cabinet minister said last night.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, replying to the offer in an Alliance party political broadcast last week, listed supposedly madcap moves by Alliance councillors in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Tower Hamlets, Devon, Cambridgeshire and Somerset.

He said in a speech at Gloucester: "I can give plenty of ammunition from Alliance councils and hung Alliance/Labour councils up and down the country."

Top of his list was Alliance-led Wiltshire, where school teachers "are being told by the county council not to use pictures of teddy bears, steam trains or toy soldiers because they apparently perpetuate the 'European middle class image'."

Rover bus firm deal

The Government has given the Rover Group permission to sell its Danish bus subsidiary, Leyland DAB, to the local management for an undisclosed sum. The buy-out will be formally announced next week.

After the management buy-out of Leyland Bus earlier this year, the Danish bus operation became peripheral to the car and Land Rover businesses that remain under the Rover Group umbrella.

Leyland DAB is the leading bus maker in Denmark, employing 500 people to assemble 250 buses a year. The company has signed a deal with Leyland to continue buying bus parts from Britain. Leyland is to continue importing specialist buses from the Danish firm.

£1 tickets for ballet Musical chairs

The Royal Ballet is inviting 14,000 first-time visitors to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to performances in July at prices ranging from £1 to £4.

The cut-price tickets, which normally cost between £5 and £22.50, will be distributed through charities, unions and voluntary organizations.

The aim of the scheme, sponsored by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Westminster City Council, is to reach people throughout Britain who have never been to the Royal Opera House.

Mr Michael Davis, leader of the London Symphony Orchestra, will return to Manchester to lead the Halle Orchestra at the end of this season.

Mr Davis, who has been with the LSO since 1979, will succeed Mr Martin Miller. He previously spent 12 years with the Halle.

Meanwhile, the LSO has appointed Leonard Bernstein, the American composer and conductor, as its president. The appointment has been made only four times in its 83-year history.

Korea drops car hint

South Korea has given a strong indication it would like to establish a car plant in Europe.

During a trade delegation visit to Seoul, the Belgian transport minister Mr Herman De Croo was told there was interest in such a venture.

More than 11,000 Korean cars were sold in the EEC in 1986, almost half being imported into Britain.

South Korea's "developing country" status enabled about 10,000 cars to be exported to the EEC free of import duty. This concession is expected to be reviewed by the community later this year when a reduction of one fifth is being considered. Last year Korea exported 300,000 cars to North America.

Archers actor dies

George Hart, who played Jethro Larkin, the farm worker, in the BBC radio serial, *The Archers*, died yesterday, aged 76.

He had been ill for some time, and continued to play the role although confined to a wheelchair.

Mr Hart, born in Gloucestershire, joined the radio serial in 1951, when he played the gamekeeper, Tom Forrest. Miss Liz Rigby, the show's producer, said it had been a great pleasure to work with the actor.



5 die on motorway

Five people died in two separate crashes on the M5 yesterday.

In the first three people died and three more were badly hurt when two cars were in collision on the southbound carriageway between Avonmouth and Cribbs Causeway, near Bristol.

Drivers had to swerve to avoid people flung from the vehicles. One, an Austin Allegro, split into several pieces. Two people were killed in the Allegro - a young man and woman from Portishead, near Bristol. The driver of the other car, a man aged 65 from Bedford, also died.

In the second crash, 17 miles away, two people died in a three-car northbound pile-up near Weston-super-Mare.

Loyalist MPs launch 'era of defiance'

By Richard Ford

Eleven "loyalist" MPs yesterday broke the law by holding a parade in Belfast at the start of province-wide protests against public order legislation.

Today the Unionist MPs will lead their supporters in a "day of defiance". Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said it would be the start of an era of defiance by "loyalists" opposed to legislation they say has been introduced at the behest of the Irish Republic's government.

Senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers have had meetings to prepare their

strategy for today. Sir John Hermon, the chief constable, said yesterday that the protests would be handled with "tact and discretion" with officers taking the names of people involved in illegal demonstrations. "It is not our intention to be punitive in any way".

The final part of an inquiry into allegations that the RUC operated a shoot-to-kill policy was delivered to Sir John yesterday.

The third instalment of the inquiry, originally headed by Mr John Stalker, formerly deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, is into

the management structure and operation of the RUC.

Sir John said that he had received the third part of the investigation, which is being headed by Mr Colin Sampson, chief constable of West Yorkshire.

Asked whether there would be prosecutions of police officers arising from the shootings in Co Armagh in 1982, Sir John said: "That is for the DPP".

On the public order legislation, Sir John appealed to the people not to listen too much to the rhetoric.

The legislation gives police wider powers to control the 1,900 marches that occur an-

nually, including a requirement that parade organizers notify police of the route seven days before the event is held.

As Sir John was speaking at RUC headquarters, Mr James McNulty, leader of the Official Unionist Party, and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, were leading fellow MPs through Belfast's city centre to a police station.

They handed in their names and addresses, along with a letter of protest about the new legislation.

They were acting illegally by not giving police prior notice of the parade.

Mr Paisley, carrying a plac-

ard saying "no Dublin law", and Mr McNulty, with one bearing the words "free speech", were not stopped by police but the RUC said later that details had been taken and a file would be sent to the province's DPP.

Today loyalists across the province are expected to take part in similar acts of defiance.

The "loyalist" paramilitary Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster clubs have said they are not going to take part in the activity.

The failure of both movements to back the politicians is clear evidence of the divisions within Unionist ranks about their strategy.

Chaos in schools warning by heads

By Sarah Thompson

Headteachers are predicting chaos in schools this year because of the new imposed pay structure for teachers which Mr Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, laid before Parliament on Thursday.

Mr Michael Duffy, president of the 5,500-strong Secondary Heads Association, told its conference in Nottingham, yesterday: "Mr Baker has left heads with a virtually impossible job."

Mr Baker told the heads last night to "think constructively" about the best way of using 25,000 new allowances of £200 each. He expects them to be given to the best classroom teachers, with more allowances following. But the association's pay officer, Mr John Sutton, said: "This presupposes that every school has exactly the same proportion of 'good' teachers."

The heads now expect that a combination of the quota system, the criteria for allotting special allowances, and the new salary structure which is also included in the imposed pay settlement will cause anomalies within schools and between schools which teachers will not accept.

Mr Baker's order, which comes into force on April 30, includes a new clause warning heads: "It tells them to 'carry out their professional duties in accordance with and subject to any rules, regulations or policies laid down by their employers'."

Heads feel that this contradicts the greater powers given them and governors by the Education Act, 1986.

Mr Sutton said: "If the local authority, for example, bans school uniform, and a head believes that uniform is conducive to good behaviour in the school, what is the head supposed to do? Promoting good behaviour is another of the duties of the head laid down by Mr Baker this week."

Thatcher 'wobbly' on election

By Richard Evans

Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister was accused by Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday of being "wobbly" over the timing of the general election.

The gibe by the Labour leader when he emerged from a coal mine in his Welsh constituency, came as Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, challenged both Mr Kinnock and the Prime Minister to a series of televised debates when the general election campaign finally gets underway.

In an open letter to "Margaret and Neil", Mr Steel said the voters were entitled to make a direct comparison between the policies and personalities of those who seek to lead them.

"Where better than on television and radio in an open debate chaired by someone whose independence is not in doubt, who could keep us all in order?" he asked.

Mr Steel's challenge comes after the recent decision by Alliance strategists to rely mainly on television and radio to get their election message across.

Mr Kinnock, speaking at Oakdale pit, in Gwent, said Mr Thatcher's reluctance to hold a by-election for the Anglesey seat of Mr Keith Best was a sure sign of uncertainty about when to call the general election.

Revenues set to tumble as strikes halt tax centres

By Roland Radd

A lightning strike by 50 computer operators at a Customs and VAT collection centre could cost the Government £1.5 billion worth of excise transactions.

The unions claim the strike, held after a midnight ballot at the centre in Southend, Essex, will prevent £1,500 million in VAT, import, tobacco and drink duties being banked.

The strike is scheduled to last for one week, but union leaders refused to rule out the possibility of a longer stoppage which could pose serious problems of lost revenue for the Government.

Customs and Excise denied the walk-out would prevent the money being banked. Mr Peter Lamb, national vice-president of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said the staff walked out within half an hour of being asked.

"This shows the level of commitment. The significant development is lightning guerrilla strikes in the Civil Service."

The Southend strike, which will particularly affect the duty-deferment unit which handles payment by big importers, appears to have taken the Government by surprise.

Mr Leslie Christie, the Gen-



The Princess of Wales, in the cream and gold outfit with military-style frogging she wore to greet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia a fortnight ago, at the 93rd Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst yesterday (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Shredding of tax files condemned

By a Staff Reporter

A trade union leader warned yesterday that the decision to shred millions of files on taxpayers would leave Inland Revenue staff unable to deal with queries from the public.

Mr Tony Christopher, general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, said the move would come as a "damaging blow to staff morale".

The decision to shred the majority of the files to save space and money comes in the wake of Lord Rayner's efficiency reviews, which were introduced by Mrs Thatcher eight years ago.

But Mr Christopher yesterday alleged that 20 million files could be destroyed, leaving only five million for dealing with so-called "troublesome" cases. He is worried that his members will no longer be able to adequately deal with the public's queries.

He claimed that the Inland Revenue was also contravening the six-year rule in shred-

Zeebrugge ferry disaster Relatives shocked by bodies

By Ruth Gledhill

Distraught relatives collapsed yesterday after identifying the bodies of victims of the Zeebrugge ferry disaster.

Some 20 of the dead were brought back to Britain after being formally identified in the makeshift mortuary at Zeebrugge naval base.

Relatives staying together at a Bruges hotel visited the mortuary despite active discouragement from police and judge Arthur d'Hoest, who is in charge of the Belgian inquiry into the tragedy.

A team of four Kent social workers led by Maidstone community project manager Mr Ron Moss spent most of the day comforting relatives after they saw bodies that were "virtually unrecognizable".

One social worker described the atmosphere in the hotel as one of "distress and relief" that the waiting was finally over.

Replying to criticism from some relatives that they had been kept waiting unnecessarily before being allowed to visit the mortuary, judge

d'Hoest said that it would have been "very wrong" to allow relatives to visit before formal identifications were completed.

He added: "The work done in shipping the bodies has been done with a lot of courage by all concerned. The collaboration between the British and Belgian authorities has been excellent."

The end of the salvage operation to right the Herald of Free Enterprise is now in sight as Belgian divers went down for the last time yesterday afternoon before preparations were made to tow the ferry back into Zeebrugge.

Post-mortem examinations have been conducted on 111 victims of the disaster and a further 30 formal identifications, including those of five children and a three-month-old baby, are expected in the next 48 hours.

Police hope the operation to return the remaining 103 bodies to Britain in passenger and freight ferries will be completed over the weekend.

A further 20 bodies are still believed to be in flooded and inaccessible areas of the ferry. They are not expected to be recovered until the Dutch salvage company Smit Tak International has towed the vessel back into port and refloated it.

Salvage inspector Bert Kleywegt said: "In a couple of days we hope to have completed all the preparations for bringing the Herald back into Zeebrugge. Weather permitting, we are aiming to refloat her in 14 days."

Investigations carried out under the vessel and in the harbour have proved without doubt that the water entered the ferry through the open bow doors.

Sources close to the inquiry said: "We have surveyed the sea, the passage, the harbour and the place the boat left. We found nothing, no sandbanks, no rocks, nothing. And the people who examined the hidden part of the hull also found nothing."

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Infertile couples 'need counselling'

A plea for more scientific attention and counselling for couples trying for children by *in vitro* fertilization was made yesterday by Dr Robert Edelmann, a clinical psychologist from Surrey University.

He told the British Psychological Society Conference at Sussex University that from the outset the impact of a diagnosis of infertility in a couple is likely to have a strong effect on psychological functioning, leading to as many as one in seven couples seeking medical help to conceive.

"It would not be surprising if psychological stress diminished success rates, possibly affecting the hormone system," Dr Edelmann said.

Present success rates were poor - between 12 and 20 per cent. He said that figure should be taken into account when prospective IVF couples were being counselled.

The question of which patients should be given access to IVF or whether there should be any selective process is indeed a major clinical dilemma," he said.

"Studies so far suggest little difference between IVF and other infertile couples although the former have been found to be higher on characteristics of ambitiousness, creativity and independence."

It was clearly necessary to gain an impression of the psychological state of couples at the outset of the IVF programme. This would enable comparison with other couples and changes in the IVF couples' psychological state over time as well as the evaluation of counselling.

"IVF, because of the new hope it offers couples, generates a great deal of anxiety

for those entering the programme," he said.

He added that many couples drop out of the programme after one attempt because of the anxiety created.

The conference will hear tomorrow that two-thirds of pregnant women suffer from "maternity blues" after the birth of their baby.

Research workers from Warneford Hospital, Oxford, will report that most women in a study described themselves as feeling tearful, tired, anxious and over-emotional, forgetting things and being muddled.

Police Authority would allow him to replace his V-registered XJ6 with a new model.

Instead it ordered reports on the cost of a wide range of British and foreign vehicles, to determine the most efficient and competitive buy.

Recommending the purchase of the Montego from an £11,000 budget, Mr Anthony McCarell, the committee chairman, said: "The new car has four doors, an engine and wheels which should be big enough and wholly adequate for the purpose for which it is intended."

"Admittedly, the vehicle is not such a high performance car as our chief constable is used to, but the committee has decided the vehicle he now has is unnecessary for his needs."

Mr Anderton said: "The substantial reduction in the standard and power of the car thought to be appropriate for the performance of the official duties by the chief constable of the largest provincial police force in the country would appear to reflect the low opinion some members of the police authority seem to have of the Greater Manchester police force and its chief constable."

"An Austin Montego was not recommended by me for consideration by the police

When his ship was torpedoed... so was his future peace of mind

Leading Seaman R. H. ... served right through the war. He was torpedoed in the Atlantic and suffered from exposure. He served in Landing Craft, and his home received a direct hit from a bomb while he was there on leave.

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These men and women have sacrificed their minds in service. To help them, we must have funds. Please send a donation and, perhaps, remember us with a legacy. The debt is owed by all of us.

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Nurses vote to take action in campaign for £1,000 pay rise

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday took its first ever step towards industrial action over pay, which could lead to a work-to-rule before the General Election.

Delegates at the RCN Congress in Glasgow voted to convene an extraordinary general meeting to consider industrial action if the Government interferes with the nurses and midwives pay review body award expected to be announced shortly.

The resolution, which will embarrass the Government, reflects growing disillusionment and frustration amongst the 150,000 members.

The college claims that nurses' pay has consistently lagged behind other public sector workers.

Earlier this week Mr Trevor Clay, its general secretary, called on the Government to show the same commitment to nurses as it had shown to teachers. He called for a £1,000 increase for all nurses, representing a pay rise of 17 per cent, costing £300 million.

The traditionally moderate college, which represents over half of the country's 450,000 nurses, has consistently resisted taking any form of industrial action in its 70-year history, in contrast to more militant health service unions such as Cofe and Nup.

Even in the two recent bitter industrial disputes over pay in the NHS in 1979 and 1982 RCN nurses continued to work while their Nup and Cofe colleagues took strike action.

In the last two years the Government has failed to implement fully the independent review body's recommendations by staging the award.

In 1985 the review body recommended an increase of 8.6 per cent but the Government implemented the full amount only in the last two months of the year effectively reducing the rise to 5.6 per cent.

In the following year the Government delayed imple-

menting a 7.8 per cent award until July so that nurses received a pay rise in line with other NHS workers, of 5.9 per cent.

Yesterday the RCN said it would not be prepared to tolerate further interference, but delegates also made it clear that industrial action would not extend to strike action which could endanger patients' lives.

Nurses warned instead that they would consider adopting a work-to-rule where they would stick rigidly to their job descriptions.

Mrs Maura Buchanan, a final year nursing student in Glasgow, said: "Our basic job description is to provide only patient care and we could disrupt the service because we are doing a lot of other work besides."

"We could stop running errands to the pharmacies for

doctors and stop doing paperwork. We could disrupt the NHS without putting patients' lives at risk."

Other nurses said that they would drop all the work they were now forced to carry out as a result of inadequate ancillary services.

Nurses often now had to distribute and sort linen, clean pots and pans and mop floors, due to inadequate staff shortages as a result of the Government's competitive tendering policy.

Mr Tony Durcan, RCN convenor, proposing the motion to call the extraordinary general meeting, made it clear that the resolution was not about strike action or the rescinding of the College's rule 12, which prohibits the withdrawing of labour during industrial action.

However the growing militant mood during the congress was underlined when mem-

bers threw out an amendment to the resolution which specifically excluded strike action from the agenda at the special meeting.

Mr Durcan attacked remarks made by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General and former health minister, on the television programme *Question Time* on Thursday.

Mr Clarke had said that the reason nurses were leaving the NHS was because they were getting married or retiring. He denied there was a recruitment problem outside London.

"That is disgraceful," said Mr Durcan. "The Government is blinkered and blind to the needs of the profession."

Mr Clay said later that a meeting could be convened within four weeks of the Government's response to the pay review body.

The council could also decide to hold the meeting if the pay review body's recommendation was considered to be too low, he said.

In the past the review body has offered awards well below the level of inflation and a similar generous award is expected this year.

Hospital services in the South are suffering because junior doctors often have to work 104 hours a week. Dr Robert Richards, a spokesman for junior staff at Southampton General Hospital, said yesterday.

He said the pressure on overworked doctors had led to falling levels of patient care and a less efficient service.

He is campaigning for better conditions after figures showed that junior doctors in the Wessex region have to work harder than anywhere else in the country. They are required to work night and weekend shifts on top of their basic 40-hour week.

Dr Richards said that although health authorities are instructed to ensure they work no more than one night in three, many at Southampton worked a one-in-two shift pattern.

Campaign against Aids

Sex habits show no change

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Britons have not changed their sexual conduct in spite of widespread publicity about the danger of Aids, according to a MORI poll commissioned by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The poll of 1,004 people aged between 16 and 54, conducted last month, was the second in a series to test the results of television publicity about how to curb the spread of Aids.

The new poll showed that 77 per cent in the March sample felt they knew a lot or a fair amount about Aids, compared with 48 per cent in December.

But there was no apparent reduction in the promiscuous behaviour which the Aids campaign has warned in-

creases the risk of exposure to the disease.

"Knowledge about contraceptive use is probably more accurate in the second survey, but the extent of use of the sheath or condom has risen by only one point," the IBA said.

The poll showed no reduction in the number of sexually active people who reported having had more than one partner in the last two months, but there was a small increase in the number claiming fidelity to one partner.

It also showed that 2 per cent of the population reported having had intercourse with four or more people in the previous two months, 1 per cent with three partners, 3 per cent with two partners,

and 91 per cent with a single partner.

Those figures did not vary significantly from the ones collected in December.

The poll was the favoured method of contraception for 28 per cent, with the condom second most popular at 22 per cent.

A total of 20 per cent said that sterilization was their method of contraception, while 19 per cent reported using no contraception.

The findings appear to contradict those of a MORI poll conducted for *The Times* in December, which showed that 26 per cent of single men and women aged 18 to 29 were more likely to use a condom to prevent Aids.

'Self control' of axe murder case teacher

The teacher accused of murdering a mother and baby with an axe was described as a woman of extraordinary self control at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

Heather Arnold, aged 50, of Orchard Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, denies murdering Mrs Jeanne Sutcliffe, aged 39, and her baby Heidi, aged eight months, at their home at The Butts, in the same town on April 30 last year.

Mr David Elfer, QC, for the prosecution, said Mrs Arnold was "afflicted by massive gaps in her memory for the first time in her life" when she was asked to recall events of May 6 last year when she was arrested.

She had said that she could not recall admitting the killings to police officers bringing her home to Wiltshire from Stone, Staffordshire, where she was staying with her daughter and where she had produced an axehead.

Mr Elfer told the jury they must make their own judgments about the character of Mrs Arnold whom he suggested showed extraordinary self-control. He added:

"Steady, we suggest, and capable of putting on an act." Mr Justice Henry said he would begin his summing up on Monday as he wished to complete it in one piece, and adjourned the hearing until then.

Whitehouse sees danger in top 'soap'

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

It was 7.30 on Thursday evening and Mrs Mary Whitehouse was preparing to tune in to another episode of *EastEnders*, the BBC1 soap opera that she believes is currently the most dangerous programme on television.

Mrs Whitehouse, aged 76, has been battling with the television industry over moral standards for 24 years.

But her crusade against *EastEnders* puts her on a collision course with popular taste. The programme is the top-rated show, attracting a weekly audience of more than 23 million.

Thursday night's programme started with Dennis Watts, known to his fans as 'Diddy' Den, arguing bitterly with his current mistress, Jan - "one of four women in his life", notes Mrs Whitehouse. The dispute ends with Jan walking out, after

which Den smashes a picture and gets drunk.

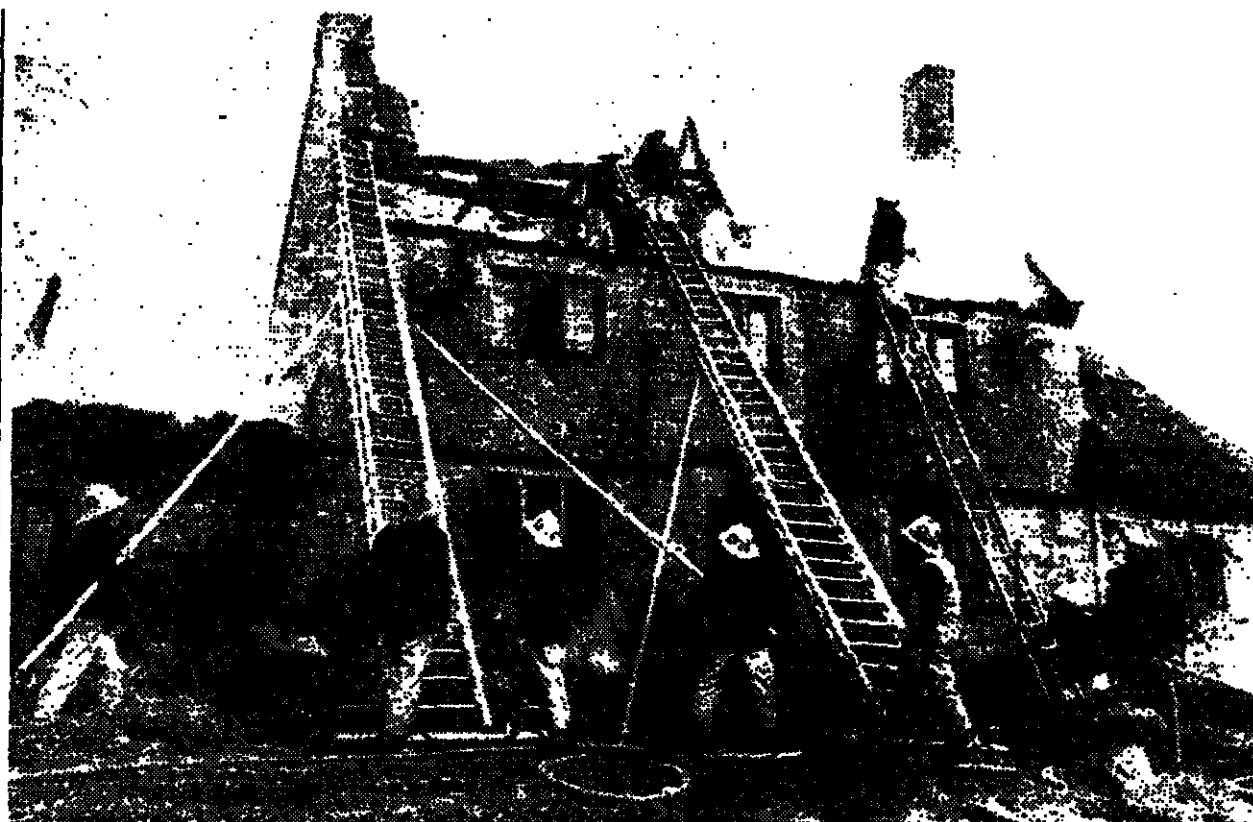
The scene shifts. Sharon, Den's unmarried teenage daughter, wants desperately to sleep with Wicky, her boyfriend. She intends to go on the pill and has asked her married friend, Michelle, if she can borrow her affair, Michelle refuses.

Mrs Whitehouse indicated approval of Michelle's decision. "She is the girl who was made pregnant by Den when she was 16," she adds.

Meanwhile, Wicky has learned from Lofy, Michelle's husband, of Sharon's decision to take the pill.

Lofy warns Wicky that the pill can have dangerous side effects. Armed with this knowledge, Wicky confronts Sharon and tells her that a condom would be a better method of birth control.

When Dot arrives at the Queen Vic public house to meet Arthur Fowler, who has



Firemen attend the gutted cottage at Fisherton de la Mere where Mr Cliff Dance caught fire after an explosion.

Burned driver saves Wiltshire village

A badly-burned lorry driver saved a Wiltshire village yesterday when he prevented a major explosion by driving his gas-filled tanker away from a fire.

Mr Cliff Dance, aged 40, caught fire when a gas cylinder was delivering to a cottage at the village of Fisherton de la Mere exploded.

He then threw himself into a nearby river before going back to the over-heating bulk tanker, which he drove 200 yards away from the fire taking hold of the cottage.

He jumped out of his cab and told a passing policeman how to make the tanker safe, then collapsed at the officer's feet.

Mr Dance, a father of two from Totton near Southampton, Hampshire, who works for Calor Gas, was taken to Oddstock Hospital at Salisbury.



Mr Dance, quick thinking despite his injuries.

bury suffering from 20 per cent burns.

His wife, Ruth, was with him last night. The hospital said his condition was satisfactory.

The police said: "This man's heroism has saved this village from a potential disaster. He must have been in agony."

The fire service said: "If the tanker had blown up it would have demolished many houses in the area. It would have been a massive explosion. He was obviously a very quick-thinking man."

Jill Debrant, a social worker who was in the village just after the accident, cradled the injured man in her lap after wrapping him in a blanket.

She said: "He saved us all from a disaster, as the 20 or so houses in the village are all very tightly-packed. We all owe him our lives. What he did was incredibly brave."

Mrs Debrant, aged 53, used her first aid training to care for the man while she waited for

ambulance men to arrive. The incident began when Mr Dance arrived to deliver gas to a storage tank at a thatched cottage. As the gas was being pumped into the storage tank, it exploded, shooting flames over the driver and the building.

About 40 firemen took more than an hour to bring the fire under control, but the building was completely gutted.

The cause of the initial blast is not yet known. Health and Safety Executive officials were called to the village.

Mr Dance's father, Stan, aged 72, said: "I am incredibly proud of what he did this morning. He is a nipper who always gets down and does the job come what may. It is a miracle there was water at hand for him to jump in."

Two homes for girl 'unwise'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lawyers expressed doubts yesterday about the wisdom of a child being allowed to continue living in two homes in the wake of a ruling that a seven-year-old girl can spend one week with her mother and one week with her father.

Mr James Tatham, vice-chairman of the Family Law Bar Association, said: "I would regard it as very unusual, and in general unsatisfactory, for a child not to have a base so that he or she lives with one particular parent."

If a child is "split evenly between two parents he does not know where his home is", he said.

But he added that if the child was of an age where his views ought to be taken into account, and he wished to spend time equally with each parent, that was practical, "that is fair enough".

He added that rulings in which children divide their time between two homes were fairly common where the child was at boarding school, in which case his holidays would be split between the parents. But they were uncommon where the child was at day school.

On Thursday a judge in Scotland ruled that a girl aged seven could continue her wish to live in two homes after she had impressed him with her intelligence and articulacy.

Lord McCloskey said at the Court of Session in Edinburgh that she plainly liked being in two households, meeting different friends.

In his divorce and custody judgement, he said the girl had known no life except being passed regularly between her parents. She had not suffered from the way she had been brought up.

The judge awarded custody to her father and gave access to her mother.

Child abuse evidence Hurd plans wider video use

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A wider use of videos for evidence in child abuse cases is being considered by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

Already measures to allow child witnesses or victims in cases involving sexual or violent assaults to give evidence by live video link are before Parliament in the Criminal Justice Bill.

Now he is examining a proposal that videos made during interviews with child victims should be admitted as evidence.

"This has obvious attractions," Mr Hurd told *Ellesmere Port Conservative Association* in Cheshire yesterday. "The object of this would be to enable the court to take into account the child's initial account of what happened and the need to go over the whole story again at the trial."

Mr Hurd cited an experiment by the Metropolitan Police and Bexley social services in south London. The interviews were less formal and frightening than at police stations and were put on to

video, to save the child from having to repeat details of the assault. Dolls were used to help children explain what has been done to them.

Mr Hurd said, however, he must move carefully to avoid action which might look good in the short term but on closer examination prove to be flawed.

It was arguable that any discrepancies which appeared between the video evidence and the evidence given in court could be used to confuse and discredit a child witness.

Though it would be premature to make such a change before the results of the Bexley experiment and other studies it was an issue which "I intend to keep under close and continuing review."

He expected to receive in the coming months an evaluation of progress with the Bexley project and a wider review of police practice in regard to child abuse.

"I intend this to lead to the issuing of new guidance to the police on how to improve performance in this crucial but intensely sensitive area."

New approach acts as filter

Thirty-two cases of alleged child abuse have been investigated during the video recordings experiment in Bexley in the year up to last January.

It shows that far from prosecution being automatic, the new approach to interviewing acts as a filter for those cases which ought not to be brought, either because of insufficient evidence, or because of insufficient evidence. But there were also findings of guilt.

The recordings are for internal use only. The results of the cases were that two were sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions for decision, while no evidence of crime was disclosed in seven cases as a result of the interview and investigation.

In two cases, allegations of sexual abuse were retracted and in seven cases there was no further action because of insufficient evidence for prosecution.

In two cases the accused was cautioned; in one case, imprisoned and in another, put on probation.

Social work is to continue in six further cases, a joint investigation in one, and further information is required in three other cases.

Anatomically correct dolls were used to help children to describe what they alleged, while the incident was still fresh in their minds. They were aged up to 16.

After a case was reported, a police officer and a social worker who were specially trained were assigned.

Their interviews with the child were in a special room in the paediatric department of a hospital. Usually, a non-accused parent or other member of the family was present.

The recordings have been used for the training of juvenile court magistrates.

The tapes should be allowed as part of the legal process, Mr Mani Srivatsan, director of social services and housing services in Bexley, said yesterday.

"The real point is to save the child what is in effect a form of Chinese torture," he said.

One idea discussed to ensure fairness at the time of the original interview may be to have the accused and his lawyer in another room but able to watch the proceedings.

Portfolio Gold - Third time lucky for winner

A Portfolio Gold competitor who won his third and biggest prize yesterday has promised his wife a replanned kitchen in their new London home on the strength of the windfall.

Mr Mark Petre, aged 46, of Dunsany Road, West Kensington, west London, who won the £4,000 daily prize, said he had recently moved back to the city after living near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and his wife, Judith, wanted the kitchen re-fitted.

His previous wins included £666 in November 1985 and £2,541 in February this year.

Mr Petre, a marketing intelligence manager with Rothmans International, said: "I am delighted with the win. I have recently moved back to London and my wife has been asking for a new kitchen and that is what she will get."

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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Mr Mark Petre, who will spend his money on a new kitchen

Body builders psychosis fear

Men who take anabolic steroids to build up their muscles can develop dangerous psychotic symptoms, according to a study conducted by US doctors.

The case is reported in *The Lancet* by doctors from Massachusetts. Two of their patients suffered delusions or began "hearing things" after taking steroids. Neither patient had a history of psychiatric illness before using the drugs, and both remained psychiatrically normal for more than two years after giving them up.

Man lied to death inquiry

A man whose fiancée plunged 50ft to her death over the Fattuck Falls in Invernesshire did not tell the truth at a fatal accident inquiry, the Sheriff Principal, Mr Stewart Bell, said, recording a formal verdict yesterday.

Mr John Duggan, aged 48, of Cardiff, told the inquiry in Inverness that he and Mrs Joyce Williams, of Caerleon, Gwent had both fallen in the water. Days later, Mr Duggan filed an insurance claim and inquired after money she had left him.

Perfect hand suits players

The Guinness Book of Records is considering including the bridge hand drawn this week by four players at a club in Newton Abbot, Devon. Each picked up an entire suit.

The chances of such a hand are one in 2,235 billion billion, officials for the book said.

Twins killed

Two twin sisters Mrs Rose Pinkney and Mrs Ida Wilson, aged 86, died yesterday in a fire at their home at Norton, North Yorkshire, where they were sleeping in a downstairs room. Mrs Pinkney's husband George, aged 83, who was sleeping upstairs, survived.

Injury claim by tea lady 'bad advice'

A tea lady who claimed she strained her right arm pushing an overloaded tea trolley lost her action in the High Court for damages yesterday.

She had been wrongly advised to sue, Mr Justice Kenneth Jones said.

Mrs Winnie Pollard, aged 53, of Shackleton Road, Stoke Newington, east London, had sued British Petroleum, claiming that she had to give up her job after developing tennis elbow from having to cope with a trolley loaded with 80 cups and saucers, 14 teapots and a four-gallon tea urn at their offices in the City, eight years ago.

The judge said Mrs Pollard was a well-meaning person who was led to make a claim on the flimsiest of grounds.

Mrs Pollard said after the case: "I turned down an offer of £500 at the beginning because my solicitor told me it was an insult."

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Law changes 'fail to help freedom of information'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Proposals to change the law on contempt concerning disclosure of court documents fail to comply with the European Commission of Human Rights, according to two groups of lawyers.

In separate submissions to the Lord Chancellor's Department, both the National Council for Civil Liberties and the Social Democratic Lawyers' Association claim the Government's proposals may involve it in further breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Government is changing the law after being taken to the European Commission by Miss Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, over breaches of safeguards for press freedom.

But under the proposals, the same restrictions on disclosure would still apply and people could be found guilty of contempt of court, the two groups claim.

"We consider it objectionable and reprehensible that the Government should

propose a measure which, so far from reforming the Harman rule, would enable arbitrary, unnecessary and unjustifiable restraints to be imposed upon the publication of discovered documents," the Social Democratic lawyers say.

The case arose after Miss Harman, at the time solicitor for the NCCL, was found guilty of contempt of court for showing to a journalist Home Office documents which had been read in open court.

The documents had been released during a case in which Miss Harman was acting for a prisoner who was suing the Home Office.

Miss Harman lost an appeal to the House of Lords, but at the European Commission in Strasbourg the Government agreed in a friendly settlement to amend the law.

But yesterday the NCCL said proposals to change the law, published in a consultation paper, give judges greater power to restrict freedom of information.



Children dressed as pandas help Joanne Conway, British ladies figure skating champion, to launch a fund-raising scheme for World Wildlife Fund UK at Richmond upon Thames ice rink yesterday. Lyons Maid, which is marketing a new lolly in the shape of the fund's panda symbol, has guaranteed the fund £30,000 a year for the next two years. Children will be able to get wall charts and panda badges by answering questions printed on the lolly sticks. (Photograph: Peter Trilivnor).

Battle against growing court secrecy

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Pressure is mounting among MPs for Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor to act over the growing number of restrictions placed on the reporting of civil and criminal trials.

Mr Alex Carlile, QC, Liberal MP for Montgomery, wants all bail applications to be heard in open court in cases

of murder, attempted murder and other violent crimes.

He says far too many cases are being heard in camera, and he is expected to press for a change in the law when the Criminal Justice Bill, just through the Commons, enters the Lords.

His remarks come in response to a letter from Mr Tim Crook, a radio journalist at the Central Criminal Court, who is leading the campaign

for action to "halt the disturbing trend of secret hearings and unlawful reporting bans being imposed by judges".

Mr Crook has taken the Government to the European Commission of Human Rights over the lack of any right of appeal against courts' banning orders. A settlement is expected soon.

In particular he and other court reporters are concerned about the practice of bail

applications held in chambers; the tendency for trials or parts of trials to be held in secret; reporting bans under the contempt laws; the number of civil applications heard in chambers, and written judgments not being read out.

Meanwhile the Guild of British Newspaper Editors is seeking evidence with which to challenge courts which impose unlawful reporting restrictions.

PARLIAMENT April 10 1987

Police 'keep to rules' against inciting crime

Police in Britain do not act as agents provocateurs, nor employ them, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, said.

Home Office guidelines to the police made clear that behaving as an agent provocateur was not permitted for members of the police force, nor for informants. If they were found to have suggested or encouraged commission of an offence, they would be liable to prosecution.

The minister was replying to Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP), who said that he had been in correspondence with the Home Secretary about the circumstances in which two detective constables in October 1985 had represented themselves as having murdered the late Mr Airey Neave, MP.

The Home Secretary had written that he was informed that the police had made an apology in court for dissembling to the family of the late Mr Neave. Mr Powell then asked why the policemen had chosen to claim responsibility for that particular crime, and the Home Secretary had written that he understood that the choice was not the result of a considered decision by the officers or their superiors directing the action.

Rather, at a meeting between them and a man later convicted for conspiracy to murder Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, one officer had spontaneously claimed to have been involved in the murder of Airey Neave, as part of an attempt to portray himself as an IRA assassin.

Should police officers present themselves to a member of the public as belonging to a terrorist organization, an offer to undertake a murder on his or her behalf? For a police officer to advertise himself as a specialist criminal overstepped the line between innocent investigation and the agent provocateur that he had always supposed, perhaps innocently, to lie outside the scope of the British police.

"If an agent provocateur is authorized, he should be authorized only at a high level of responsibility and full control should be retained by those who cover it with their orders and responsibility."

Mr Peter Brunsell (Leicester East, C) said that in a homosexual case that had involved an MP, he believed there would have been no offence and no charge if a policeman had not acted as an agent provocateur.

Mr Hogg said that an agent provocateur had been most authoritatively defined by the

Royal Commission on Police Powers in 1928 as a person who incited another to commit an express breach of the law which he would not otherwise have committed, and who then proceeded or informed against that person in respect of an offence. The most critical element was the incitement or inducement.

That the use of agents provocateurs was unlawful had been stated most authoritatively by Lord Chief Justice Goddard in a case in 1948 involving betting in a public house.

Home Office guidelines said: "No member of the police force and no public informant should counsel or procure the commission of a crime."

That applied to informants as well as to police and the guidelines said: "The informant must on no account act as agent provocateur, whether by suggesting to others that they should



Hogg: A difficult and narrow distinction

commit offences or encourage them to do so, and if he is found to have done so, he will be liable to prosecution himself."

It was perfectly proper for police officers to infiltrate a criminal or terrorist organization and they must show some enthusiasm for what was going on, or infiltration would prove impossible, but they must not incite the commission of offences by others.

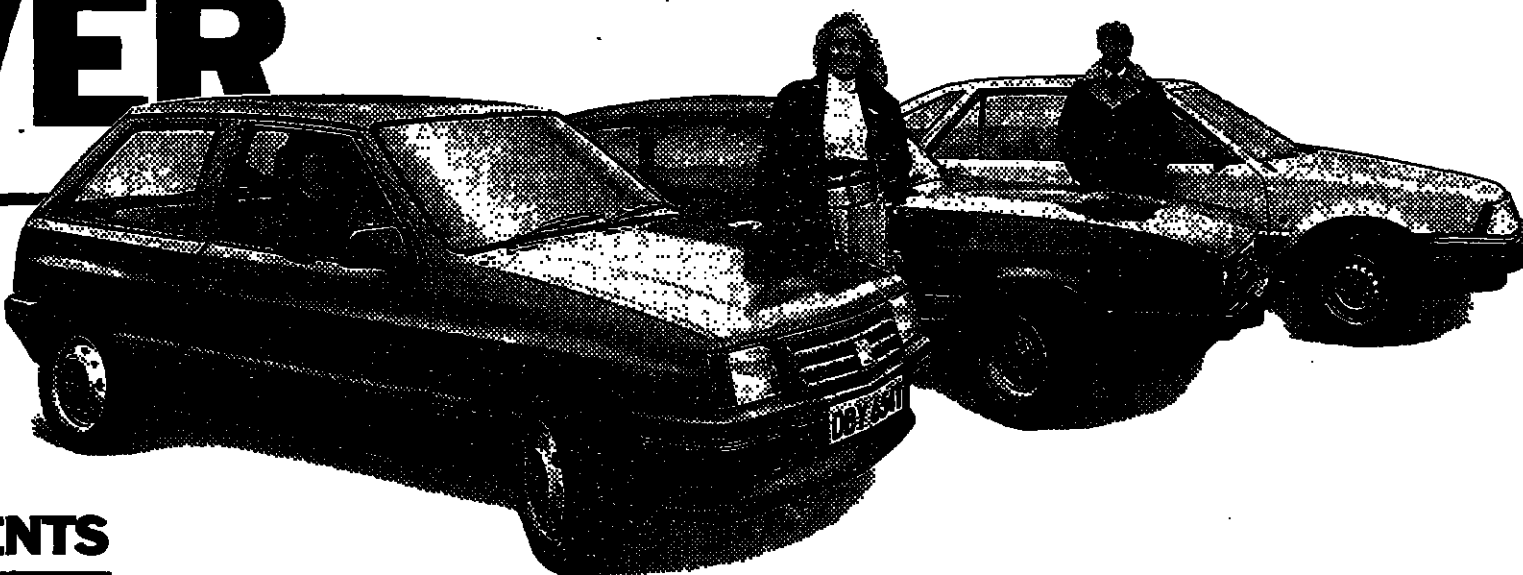
"I accept that the distinction is sometimes narrow, and not always easy to adhere to. On the whole the police are adhering to it."

It was difficult to give a categorical reply to Mr Powell's question, how often agents provocateurs were used, but since the 1969-70 period there had been few allegations of their use in the sense that he (Mr Hogg) meant it. Home Office officials could not recall any complaints, and nor could the Police Complaints Authority.

He rejected Mr Brunsell's complaint, saying that if police had not intervened in the Gandhi case, the conspiracy could have had tragic results.

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Banks in talks on rules for overdrafts

A change in the arrangements for bank overdrafts was being discussed between the Department of Trade and Industry and the banks, Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, told the Commons during an adjournment debate.

His comments came during discussion of the operation of Government regulation of the banking system. This had been raised by Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab), who suggested that many bank customers were being ripped off because unauthorized overdrafts were exempt from the Consumer Credit Act, allowing managers to charge whatever interest rate they liked, without informing the customer.

Mr Clark said that flexibility was in the interests of customers, otherwise banks might refuse to honour cheques and that could be inconvenient and embarrassing. To follow the Consumer Credit Act would mean that every time a customer inadvertently over-drafted his account there would have to be a written agreement.

But he had sympathy with the point and it had been discussed in his department. It would be reasonable that specific overdraft arrangements, akin to bank loans, should be subject to regulation by the Act. Customers would therefore be informed of the full terms of the agreement, including the cost of the credit.

Guidance on car insurance

Advice about the considerations that drivers need to take into account when buying motor insurance would be sent out with vehicle licence reminders, Mr Michael Spicer, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said in an adjournment debate.

He agreed that there was a case for the Government giving wider publicity to the problem, outlined by Mr Cranley Osslow (Woking, C), where drivers with third-party insurance cover were not liable to compensation for damage to their vehicles if negligence on the part of another driver could not be proved.

An appropriate form of words to warn people was being worked out.

Vauxhall hit by big rate rise

The Vauxhall car factory in Bedfordshire will face a rate increase of £2 million this year, the highest rate increase, 21.3 per cent, of any county, Mr John Carlisle (Luton, C) said. Workers there should realize that if the wage increase they were seeking was cut, they must look to the Labour and Alliance councillors for where that money had gone.

Acts approved

The following Acts received Royal Assent: Animals (Scotland); Broadcasting; Gaming (Amendment); Petroleum; Minor Contracts; Revision of Trusts; Reverter of Sites; and Exeter City Council.

Abolition of councils 'saved £100 million'

Mr Christopher Chope, Under-Secretary of State for Environment, declined during an adjournment debate to answer a call for an independent audit of the savings claimed by the Government to have resulted from the abolition of the Greater London Council.

He said that he was prepared to ask that a report by the Association of London Authorities (ALA) should be discussed to see to what extent it represented a fair picture of post-abolition London. "I am certain that it is a travesty of the truth by selective quotation."

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab), who initiated the debate, said that the Government claimed that the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties would result in savings of 7,000 staff and £100 million.

"I believe these figures were plucked out of the air. The Government has consistently refused to give a more detailed breakdown."

The ALA report had shown that the total cost of running services provided by the GLC was now £178 million more than in the last year of its existence.

"The Government is simply dressing up the statistics in order to try to give respectability to its case. It is an example of the

Government's own creative accounting, which it spends so much time condemning Labour local authorities for doing."

The abolitionists had resulted from the Prime Minister's malice and her particular detestation of one local Labour authority that dared to oppose her.

In many areas there was daily evidence of inefficiency and disruption and chaos that was the reality of abolition.

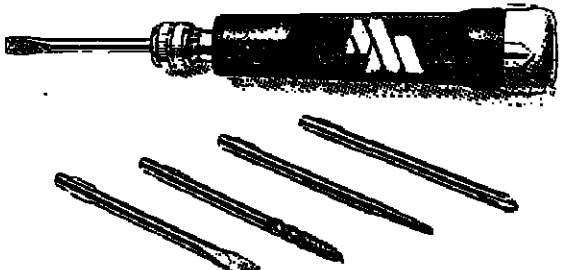
"The Government has sought to hide the impact of GLC abolition behind a welter of unprovable statistics, which they refuse to detail in any way that makes them meaningful."

Mr Chope said that abolition had emboldened local savings. More than 6,000 posts were saved immediately on abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties, with clear-cut savings of £100 million.

The GLC and metropolitan counties were hoarders of property and surplus land, which the Government was now encouraging to be sold. By the end of this year, that would have generated some £300 million of capital receipts.

The chaos predicted by some had been conspicuous by its absence. The boroughs had absorbed their new functions with barely a ripple. Accountability to the electorate was increased.

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Will the car be used for commercial or travelling purposes? ☐ YES ☐ NO
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WORLD SUMMARY

Dutch to stem the flood of refugees

The Hague (Reuter) — The Netherlands has decided to introduce tough measures to stem a surge in the number of refugees seeking asylum and to speed up the procedure for ruling on refugee cases.

Officials said that the provisions were urgently needed because the influx, mostly from Third World countries, had brought the immigration service to a standstill and stretched government resources.

Under the rules, agreed to in Parliament early yesterday and due to take effect on April 15, the immigration authorities will be able to turn back at land borders and airports those foreigners who have already passed through another Western country or sought asylum there.

The vetting process in these cases will last about two days, compared with the usual three months, and only basic questions will be asked. Others will be fully investigated and all asylum-seekers will have the right of appeal.

Statuary mystery

Athens — The British consulate here was trying yesterday to verify the identity of a man claiming to have lost his passport who faces jail after being charged with stealing antiquities (Mario Modiano writes).

The man, who was arrested on Monday, says he is Mr Richard Peter Jeakings, a school teacher aged 42 from Wimbledon. He says he had a marble fragment, some 16½ in by 9 in, of the knee and thigh from a Hellenistic or Early Roman statue.

Mr John Tower, the British consul, said a passport in that name had been issued. But "we will not know if it is the same person until we obtain his application form and check the photograph".

Diners shot

Lima (AP) — Two left-wing rebels dressed in school uniforms sprayed restaurant diners with gunfire, killing two army officers and two civilians, and injuring four other people, police said. Other police accounts put the number of dead at three and the number of wounded at five.

Earlier, an Interior Ministry official said the attack killed four army officers and seriously wounded five civilians. He said the Shining Path guerrilla movement was presumed to be responsible, and that it was not known if the attack was aimed specifically at the officers.

The guerrillas tossed dynamite at parked cars outside the restaurant as they fled on foot.

Scalfaro is selected



Rome (Reuter) — President Cossiga of Italy yesterday called in Signor Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, left, the Interior Minister in the Craxi Government which resigned on Thursday — the 45th since the war — and political sources said he would be named prime minister designate. Officials at the Quirinal Palace said that asking him to form a government was likely merely to lead Italy to an early general election.

Guernica protest

Madrid (Reuter) — Basque radicals invaded the Prado Museum yesterday in an attempt to have Picasso's masterpiece, "Guernica", sent to the Basque town whose bombing in the Spanish Civil War inspired the painting. Police were negotiating with the protesters, some of whom chained themselves to the railings of the Prado while 15 others invaded the annex which houses the work and covered the painting with a banner urging "Return Guernica to Guernica".

Fury over pit dead

Johannesburg — The black National Union of Mineworkers yesterday accused Gencor, the Afrikaans mining house, of being a "bitcher" in the industry after 34 miners were killed and 16 injured, six seriously, in a pit explosion on Thursday night (Ray Kennedy writes).

The explosion, 330 ft underground at the Ermelo mine in the Eastern Transvaal, is believed to have been caused by methane gas. Last September 177 miners died in an underground fire at Gencor's Kinross gold mine.

Honda sidles out

Tokyo — Honda has launched the world's first production car with four-wheel steering on the Japanese market (David Watts writes). It enables the car to come out of a parking spot with an almost crabwise motion. During normal driving both front and rear wheels will turn in the same direction, when the steering wheel is turned a small amount. But when the wheel is turned beyond a certain point, on narrow roads and during parking, the rear wheels are turned in the opposite direction to those at the front, giving a high degree of manoeuvrability and a 9 ft turning radius.

Junejo sets sights on Commonwealth

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Pakistan has made strong behind-the-scenes efforts to canvass support for its return to the Commonwealth during a four-day official visit to Britain by the Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo.

Strong indications emerged that Islamabad hopes for an invitation to rejoin the 49-nation group, which it left in 1972, when the Commonwealth heads of government held their bi-annual meeting in Vancouver in October.

But it also became clear that no official application will be made until Islamabad feels confident of avoiding a humiliating rejection. At least 12 people were killed by Thursday night's car bomb in Rawalpindi, where President Zia lives, doctors said yesterday (Reuter reports from Rawalpindi). About 100 people were injured by the explosion, which ripped through a crowded bazaar. Police said they had no clues about who was responsible for the attack, two-and-a-half weeks after an explosion killed nine people and injured 100 in Lahore.

Mr Junejo took soundings in talks both with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and with Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Agreements to continue discreet discussions with the Secretariat was reached. A high source travelling with Mr Junejo said that Britain was seen as the key to persuading India to drop its

Pope points to crisis of values in 'societies of abundance'



The bumpy road to East-West arms accord

Obstacles remain to missile breakthrough

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

A flurry of last-minute preparations for Mr George Shultz's visit to Moscow was completed yesterday with new Soviet proposals and final US consultations with the allies.

The US Secretary of State sets out tomorrow for arms control talks billed as by far the most important since last October's Reykjavik summit.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement in Prague that Moscow hopes for an international convention this year on chemical weapons, sent a shiver of apprehension through Washington.

Chemical weapons are seen as an area in which Moscow could make a public relations coup because of public failure to understand the importance of adequate verification.

Washington has consistently held back from a British-proposed compromise — accepted as a basis for discussion by Moscow — because of concern its verification procedures would be open to cheating.

The Soviet leader's announcement that Moscow had built a plant to liquidate its stockpile, in anticipation of such a convention, upped the propaganda ante.

Mr Shultz hopes to keep the main focus on nuclear arms control in his talks with his Soviet opposite number, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze.

He hopes to go beyond the most obviously achievable aim of agreement on medium-range weapons. If their talks make progress, he may also see Mr Gorbachev. Informed Whitehall sources yesterday rated the chances of a breakthrough, sufficient to enable an arms control agreement to be signed at a summit in Washington in the next six months, at less than even.

Although the gap between their positions has narrowed since Reykjavik, formidable obstacles remain.

American sources suggested that a third summit could take place before President Reagan leaves office even in the absence of an arms control agreement. Hints from Moscow would accept only if certain of success.

The Americans have consulted their allies far more thoroughly than before the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in Iceland. Alarm in Europe over Mr Reagan's willingness to go far beyond what was agreed caused the most serious tensions in the alliance for years.

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Shultz hopes for INF deal with backing of West Europe

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, carries the hopes of Americans and Western Europeans to Moscow tomorrow. His hand has been strengthened by an unusual unity between London, Paris and Bonn on preconditions for a Euro-missile deal.

His own beleaguered President needs an important accord, as does Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. The prospects for agreement on Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) are good.

Washington and the Nato allies are for once absolutely clear and united on how to handle Moscow, much to the relief of Administration officials more accustomed to division, bickering and rancour with — and within — Western Europe.

Mrs Thatcher believes an intermediate-range nuclear forces agreement can be

achieved by the end of this year in time for Senate ratification before President Reagan leaves office. Senior British officials believe Moscow has given priority to getting an accord.

It is now up to Mr Shultz. If he can lay the foundations of a medium-range missile agreement that also addresses the question of Russian superiority in shorter-range weapons, there will be every chance Mr Gorbachev will be in Washington later this year to sign on the dotted line with President Reagan. The talks on this are likely to go better than on most other items on the agenda; the gap between the Russian and American positions on ballistic missiles, the Strategic Defence Initiative and underground testing remains wide.

Britain, like West Germany, would prefer the superpowers to negotiate a low-level parity in shorter-range missiles rather than eliminating them completely, an outcome which would leave Western Europe even more exposed to superior Warsaw Pact conventional strength.

The Reagan Administration is grateful to Mrs Thatcher for

pulling Bonn, Paris and London together, giving Mr Shultz a clear negotiating mandate that Mr Gorbachev will be unable to breach by the time-worn Kremlin tactic of playing America and Western Europe against each other.

The US hopes that the new allied unity presages a clearer, more consistent European view on arms control and international security.

Washington View
By Christopher Thomas

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Gains for Islam in Egypt poll

From A Correspondent
Cairo

President Mubarak of Egypt, whose party retained a majority of 70 per cent of seats in Monday's parliamentary elections, has been assured of winning a second term as President and of support for all his policies. But an Islamic Alliance which won 60 seats will provide constant opposition in the assembly.

The final results of the election, announced early yesterday, showed that despite opposition claims of Government vote-rigging and armed violence in favour of the ruling party, Mr Mubarak has tolerated a significant expansion of the opposition, allowing Egypt to move towards a multi-party democracy.

The opposition won about 100 seats in the new House. The Alliance, consisting of the Muslim Brotherhood, the left of centre Socialist Labour Party and the liberal al-Ahram Party, won 60 seats including four independents.

The right-wing New Wafd Party, which was the biggest opposition group in the old House with 38 seats, won 36. Mr Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) won a total of 338 of the contested 448 seats — of which 30 were gained by their supported independents.

The left-wing National Unionist Progressive Party and the tiny Umma Party failed to win sufficient votes for representation.

Syrian move to pacify south

Sidon (Reuter) — Syria turned to south Lebanon yesterday to resolve a simmering dispute there between Palestinians and the Shia Muslim Amal militia. Palestinian and militia sources said.

They said that Syrian military observers led a delegation of Amal officials and pro-Syrian Palestinians from Beirut to the southern port of Sidon for peace talks.

In Beirut, meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) drove four trucks packed with supplies into the Chatila camp.

Syrian soldiers moved into

positions at Chatila and Bour al-Barajneh earlier this week after a ceasefire between Amal and the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF).

Political analysts said that Syria's deployment at the shanty towns and a partial lifting of Amal's siege there had marked a limited success for Damascus at the expense of its rival, the PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat. Mr Arafat's Fatah faction was not party to Sunday's accord.

Amal has said it will not lift its siege completely from refugee camps in Beirut and the south until the guerrillas pull back from ground they won near Sidon last November.

the PNSF-Amal delegation had begun talks in Sidon under Syrian supervision.

Mr Hajitham Jumaa, a member of Amal's governing political committee, said before leaving for Sidon: "We are not going to negotiate, but to meet with local officials". He expected guerrillas to withdraw from the area east of Sidon if the talks produced positive results.

Amal has said it will not lift its siege completely from refugee camps in Beirut and the south until the guerrillas pull back from ground they won near Sidon last November.

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Maltese try to break spiral of political violence

From Nicholas Beeston, Valletta

Officials from Malta's two main political parties held talks yesterday to defuse rising political tension in the run-up to next month's general election, amid growing concern over a renewed outbreak of political violence.

The meeting, which was held between the ruling Malta Labour Party and the Nationalist Party to ensure that rival party supporters do not clash during a series of election rallies in the coming weeks, follows a shooting incident, on Sunday which left two Nationalist supporters seriously injured with gunshot wounds.

The Prime Minister, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, told reporters yesterday that "these troublemakers are not Maltese" and predicted that the democratic elections would not be affected by the incidents.

However, Opposition leaders and independent observers here maintain that the Nationalist supporters were shot by men in police uniforms with standard-issue police pistols.

The Nationalist Party leader, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, told *The Times* yesterday that the incident is the latest in a string of attacks against his members, which stretches back to November 1986 when 23 supporters were injured during a rally in the village of Zejtun.

In December a party worker, Mr Raymond Caruana, was shot and killed in a hail of automatic fire in a Nationalist Party office in Gudja.

"There is a small, thuggish fringe on both sides," one diplomat commented. "But the shooting incidents are a new and disturbing departure and most of the casualties appear to be on the Nationalist side."

One particularly alarming statistic is that 50,000 Maltese, almost a quarter of the adult population of the island, hold permits to own firearms.

"Throwing paint over the posters of rival parties and scuffles between supporters is standard practice in Malta, but after the shootings the tempers are now higher than ever before," a diplomat said.

The Nationalist Party has made the "rule



Dr Mifsud Bonnici, left, and Dr Fenech Adami: both anxious to halt clashes, of law" the centrepiece of its campaign strategy and has promised to reform the police force and the judiciary and reopen investigations into politically inspired attacks, the majority of which are still unsolved.

In particular, the party has targeted its anti-government rhetoric against a 50-man police squad, called the Special Mobile

Unit, some of whose officers have been named publicly for their part in anti-Nationalist attacks.

Although Government and Opposition leaders have been working to stem the violent trend, most observers on the island believe that more confrontations are inevitable before the elections on May 9. Political pundits predict an extremely close electoral race in the coming weeks before this tiny archipelago containing 350,000 people goes to the polls.

Part of the reason for the latest round of political violence is the increasing polarization on the island, which is split almost exactly in half between support for the Socialist MLP, which is backed by the trade unions, and the Nationalist Party, which is supported by the powerful Roman Catholic Church and the private sector.

In the last elections in 1981, the Nationalists had 50.9 per cent of the vote and the Labour Party 49.1 per cent. But because of an electoral quirk and some imaginative boundary arrangements, the MLP was returned to power with 34 seats

and the Nationalists with 31 seats. Although leaders from both parties speak confidently of victory, sources in both camps agree the election will be a close one, although the vast majority of the Maltese electorate has already decided which way it is going to vote.

Experts believe that the Nationalists will not have lost any of their voters from the last election and may have gained some young, first-time voters.

Although the Maltese are concerned that a Nationalist Government would be unused to decision-making and holding the reins of power, observers say there is also concern that, under 16 years of socialist rule, corruption has undermined many of the country's institutions.

In an attempt to win over the undecided 2 per cent of the electorate, the Government has embarked on a massive vote-buying spree, which has included creating several thousand new public sector jobs and granting import licences for scarce commodities, from video recorders to chocolate.

Contras battle to beat the rains

From Alan Tomlinson, Jinotega

Three months into the dry-season offensive and with the rains rapidly approaching, the US-backed guerrilla insurgency in Nicaragua remains locked in combat with superior Sandinista forces in remote highland regions.

With the wet season, which will blunt the offensive, less than two months away, the Contras are struggling against time to demonstrate the success they need to help President Reagan win them more US funding later this year.

The war is raging in inaccessible mountain fastnesses along the central backbone of Nicaragua. The thick of the fighting is in the north where Contras infiltrating from bases in neighbouring Honduras are meeting stiff opposition from government troops.

Both sides claim to be engaging enemy forces as many as 10 times a day, inflicting hundreds of casualties a month as the rebels fight their way south through the jungle to the centre of the country where they are strongest.

The largest rebel movement, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (NDF), said it had killed 614 government soldiers in March. The Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said 425 Contras had died in the 30 days ending last Sunday, bringing to 1,118 the number of rebels reported killed by the Army this year.

Sandinista forces outnumber the insurgents, estimated to be about 10,000-strong. Swollen by conscription to about 10 times that number, the Army has developed into a highly effective counter-insurgency machine, through the creation of irregular warfare battalions that can be de-



played rapidly wherever they are needed in support of local militias and hunter battalions with knowledge of the terrain. "We are better guerrillas than they are," said Lieutenant-Colonel Roberto Calderón, chief of the key military region embracing the central cattle-ranching provinces of Boaco and Chinotega, where the Contras succeeded in maintaining a permanent presence throughout last year while the bulk of their forces were back in Honduras awaiting more US aid.

Despite reports that several hundred Contra field commanders have received intensive training by US Army Special Forces as part of the aid programme and that the rebels have been armed with sophisticated weapons, such as heat-seeking ground-to-air missiles to counter the Army's helicopters, Colonel Calderón said that he had detected no improvement in either the tactics or fire power of the rebels.

"According to the Contras, this area is their main theatre of action but they have not justified the aid," he said, claiming that his forces had killed 431 guerrillas in the region during the first quarter of this year.

The Contras, revitalized during a long winter respite in Honduras by \$100 million (\$62.5 million) worth of new weapons and training, say their aim is to elude the Army, to shun heavy combat and to home in on economic and military targets.

According to their own and the Government's accounts of the latest fighting state the most recent rebel attacks have been directed against isolated farms defended by peasant militiamen and remote army outposts.

Minister admits failure on pay curb as Spain endures transport strike

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Carlos Solchaga, Spain's Economics Minister, admitted yesterday that the Socialist Government had failed to make a 5 per cent wage increase ceiling for this year stick as the country suffered its third nationwide, 24-hour transport strike in a fortnight.

The tourist industry sent telegrams yesterday to Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, and government departments expressing alarm about the effect of the protest over the Government's wages policy on Easter holiday business. More than 80 per cent of ground personnel from Iberia and Aviasco, the state and domestic airlines, and railway staff were reported to be backing the stoppage.

With hotel cancellations already reported from the Balearic Islands and the Costa del Sol, the only good news yesterday was the calling off of a threatened four-day strike at petrol stations over Easter.

A government spokesman claimed that the Communist unions' strike call had been a "failure", pointing to the absence of serious disturbances

yesterday and to some transport workers' observance of minimum rush-hour services. Paramilitary Civil Guards accompanied passengers onto a TWA New York-bound plane at Madrid airport yesterday in face of opposition by

Nineteen former Franco ministers have failed in a Madrid High Court action to overturn a law annulling their rights to a ministerial pension (Richard Wigg writes). The 19, who under Franco did not have to pay towards guaranteed pensions, based their case on the equality of all under the 1978 constitution.

striking ground staff. They were refusing to unload baggage on incoming flights.

An estimated 10,000 public sector workers demonstrated outside Señor Solchaga's ministry in the Castellana. About 400 workers shouted insults and threw stones at mounted police before being dispersed by the police wielding batons.

As the demonstrators called for the Economics Minister's resignation, Señor Marcelino

Camacho, the Communist union leader, accused Señor Solchaga of "doing the dirty work of the big capitalists" in refusing wage demands.

Another strike leader claimed that, in 300 wage contracts signed by various industries this year, the average settlement was about 7 per cent. Señor Nicolás Redondo, the Socialist trade union leader, advised the Government to "reflect seriously" on the resistance to its wage ceiling.

Some 300,000 workers in private sector building also stopped work yesterday. In Valladolid, 15,000 car workers from Renault staged a demonstration.

In the northern region of Cantabria, hundreds of tractors blocked roads as farmers protested over milk quotas. Election date: The Cabinet yesterday set June 10 as the date for holding Spain's first direct elections to the European Parliament. Voters on the same day will be polling in municipal elections and for the parliaments in 13 of the country's 17 autonomous regions.

Rio commuters run for cover as bullets fly



Railway security guards opening fire on commuters protesting against a strike by train drivers at a central station in Rio de Janeiro. Two people died and 85 were injured in the disturbances (Reuter

reports from Rio de Janeiro). The drivers announced on Thursday that they would begin striking for higher wages and better working conditions and yesterday commuter trains throughout the

city were idle. Passengers protested against the decision by throwing stones at the city's main train station, prompting railway security guards to respond with gunfire and teargas.

Siena goes to war on English

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Siena has declared war on the English language. The Tuscan city knows all about war: the Florentines laid siege to Siena in the 13th century they catapulted dead donkeys over the city walls in the cheerful hope that it would spread plague and destroy the inhabitants.

Now the plague has linguistic rather than zoological origins and the city fathers have decided on firm action. Siena regards itself as the measure of the purest Italian language and the city's Mayor, Signor Vittorio Mazzoni della Stella, a Socialist, has decreed that English is destroying the city's moral fibre.

Now the censors are at work. The words "snack" and "fast food" have been banned. Waiters who could be busily ignoring customers are perched on top of stepladders inserting the Italian words *tavola calda*, literally "hot table". Pity the poor café owner, theirs but to do and daub.

The long-suffering owner of the Bar Ghiacciera says that he chose the word "snack" because it seemed snappier but in truth he does not know what it means. His bar is no longer a bar but the much purer *sala biliardi*, a billiard hall. On the whole though, the city censors are not insisting on excising the word "bar". It has been spared by its etymological obscurity.

"Sovvenir" can stay, saved by its Latin roots. "Real leather" must go, though, under the new linguistic regime. The shops with their charming water bottles, bells and hides will have to hope that the million or so tourists will be able to recognize the phrase *vero cuoio*.

The Mayor reasons that Siena's charm does not rest on a single feature (leaning tower, for example) but on its overall historical appeal, its quintessentially Italian character. To make too many concessions to the tourists would destroy the reason for their coming.

Polisario claims big victory

Algiers (Reuters) — Polisario guerrillas fighting for control of the Western Sahara claim to have killed 157 Moroccan troops and taken 17 prisoners in a fierce battle on Wednesday.

They said they launched a four-hour "mopping-up operation" south of Hawsa in the north-eastern corner of the disputed territory, breached Moroccan defences and pursued Moroccan troops for 10 miles behind their lines, destroying several command posts and an artillery battery.

Segovia ill

New York (AFP) — The 94-year-old Spanish guitarist, Andrés Segovia, was in a satisfactory condition in hospital and undergoing tests for what his doctor called cardiac irregularities.

Hostage freed

Oppido Mamertino, Italy (Reuters) — Signorina Angela Mitica, the 25-year-old daughter of an Italian mayor, has been freed by police after a gun battle with kidnappers who held her for four months.

Long straight

Dayton, Ohio (AP) — Captain Norman Howell, of the US Air Force, flew from Oklahoma to Dayton in a home-built, 606 lb aircraft called The Ugly Quacking to claim a world record for straight-line distance by a plane of its weight.

Off target

Stockholm (Reuters) — A Swedish Air Force Draken jet taking part in an exercise was badly damaged after a second fighter shot it down with an off-target missile.

Healing sex

Paris — M Raymond Wissler, a self-styled "healer-hypnotist" from Mulhouse, Alsace, has been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, including 12 suspended, for prescribing a slimming cure to young models involving sexual relations with him.

Harare disinvestment rules

Charges of financial 'racism'

From Jan Raath, Harare

A sudden wave of disinvestment which guarantees protection against discrimination. The policy appears nowhere in any of the Reserve Bank's labyrinth of regulations that govern the outflow of foreign currency. But banking sources said that it had been applied for almost three years, and nearly always appeared as a condition in Reserve Bank documents when a foreign-based company received its approval to remit funds from disinvestment.

The sources say that it has been notably conspicuous in the past two weeks with the sale of the majority shareholdings of two large companies here by their foreign owners, the British-based Kenning Overseas Investment Company and a Dutch offshore company linked to the

South African conglomerate, Barlow Rand.

Another British company, Legal and General, was reported this week as having been involved in negotiations to sell out to Zimnat, a local insurance company, whose majority shares are owned by the Government.

Observers say that the publication of the restrictions by *The Financial Gazette* is likely to be unfavourably viewed by international lending institutions.

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Pretoria signs security pact with homelands

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa and two of its independent tribal homelands, Transkei and Ciskei, which have hovered on the brink of war for the last six months, signed a "treaty of regional security and co-operation" at a meeting in Cape Town yesterday.

President P.W. Botha said after the ceremony that the treaty had enabled the signatories to "take a step forward in peace and prosperity", and would serve as an example to all leaders in southern Africa.

Chief George Matanzima, the Prime Minister of Transkei, said he hoped the treaty would not suffer the same fate as the Munich Agreement between Hitler and Chamberlain. "Actions speak louder than words. We shall wait and see whether actions shall speak louder than words," he said.

Chief Matanzima, whose position in the Transkei had seemed to be in some doubt prior to yesterday's agreement, was full of praise for Mr Botha's Government and said he hoped it would be "restored to power with a bigger majority" at the whites-only election on May 6.

The terms of the treaty were dictated to Transkei and Ciskei just over a fortnight ago, when Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, accompanied by General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, and Mr Adrian Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, visited the two territories.

Pretoria was worried that the two states it had created were slipping out of its control and threatening serious disturbance.

Airborne machismo threatens peace in Aegean

From Mario Modiano, Athens

While Greece and Turkey are haggling over the scope and nature of a dialogue to reduce bilateral friction, the risk of a sudden war in the Aegean has increased perceptibly since the recent crisis.

Young Greek and Turkish fighter pilots confront each other several times a day in the Aegean skies as Turkey challenges the breadth of the Greek air space, and its fighter aircraft enter the Aegean without notifying the Athens flight

information region (FIR) which has control over air traffic in the area.

Greek jets, acting on peace-time standing orders, scramble to intercept, identify and turn back the intruders. The Turkish pilots often defy them and engage in mock dogfights. "Sometimes they get so close that they can read each other's maps," said a source in Athens.

There is growing anxiety among the Western allies of Greece and Turkey that an accident could happen easily through miscalculation, over-

reaction, or plain machismo.

The Greek authorities issued no denial to an extremely detailed account, published in an Athens daily newspaper, of how war was avoided on March 30, three days after the Aegean crisis was defused.

It appears that an order to a Greek air patrol to force a Turkish naval reconnaissance plane inside the Athens FIR to land on a Greek airfield, or shoot it down if it refused, was countermanded by a junior staff officer with split-second reflexes.

The Greeks maintain that

Turkish air violations — Turk-

ish complaints of Greek violations are infrequent — have increased since the crisis. Last week the Turkish Foreign Ministry notified Greece that it would refuse to consider any proposals for air violations other than those relating to the "six-mile Greek air space" in the Aegean. Greece decreed a 10-mile air space beyond its coastline in 1931.

Turkey's limits-testing may be intended to impress on the Greek Government that, beyond the problem of their conflicting oil claims in the

Aegean which brought them close to armed conflict on March 27, there are many other equally dangerous problems that need to be tackled through bilateral negotiations.

However, in the current exchange of messages between the prime ministers of Greece and Turkey, Greece insists that the only object of Greek-Turkish talks should be to draft a document jointly requesting the International Court of Justice in The Hague to solve the seabed dispute by drawing their common boundary on the Aegean.

Teenage girl on Death Row fuels US debate

From Charles Bremner, Gary, Indiana

On a warm spring day two years ago, a 15-year-old girl led three friends to the home of the local Bible teacher during the school lunch break, stabbed the old woman to death with a foot-long butcher's knife and stole \$10.

Paula Cooper now waits on Death Row in the Indiana women's prison, sentenced to the electric chair for killing Mrs Ruth Pelke, aged 78.

The case has kindled a national campaign by civil liberties groups who have been fighting against a tide of public support for capital punishment since 1977.

That year the execution of Gary Gilmore in Utah marked a return to the death penalty under new laws in a majority of states after a five-year break. The Supreme Court had struck down old capital punishment laws in all states in 1972.

Seventy men have been put to death and 1,874 prisoners are awaiting execution by hanging, electrocution, shooting, gassing or injection on

Death Rows around the country. Thirty-three of them are under 18.

According to the latest opinion poll, 70 per cent of Americans favour the death penalty, although opponents argue that it is applied arbitrarily and mainly against blacks.

Paula Cooper has become a test case for a strong lobby that argues that society must punish teenage criminals in the same way as adults.

Under the impact of the Cooper case, Indiana has just raised the minimum age at which an offender can face the penalty from 10 to 16. It remains one of 24 states where teenagers under 18 may be put to death.

Even the 16-year minimum was opposed by Indianapolis legislators, who said an example must be made.

"We need to have consequences. Young people are wanting some guidelines, some direction," said a Republican state senator, Mr William Costas. "I think we're doing our young people harm by raising that age."

Mr James McNew, the prosecutor who demanded the death penalty for

Miss Cooper, said at a recent debate: "Children do not kill. Criminals kill."

However, Mr James Kimbrough, the judge who sentenced Miss Cooper, says he is opposed to the death penalty and agonized over having to order a child to be put to death. Mr Kimbrough, aged 51 and black, said he had no alternative under law because of the brutality of the crime.

"Maybe in 20 years, after we have had our fill of executions, we will swing back the other way and think they are unconstitutional," he said before sentencing last July.

Miss Cooper pleaded with the judge: "All I can ask you is not to take my life. I hope you can find compassion in your heart."

Earlier, she had described how she and the three others had talked their way into the Bible teacher's house and how she had stabbed the old woman, who was white, 33 times.

The girls then spent the afternoon joy-riding around Gary, which is just south of Chicago, in Mrs Pelke's car after disposing of the knife at a hamburger drive-in.

The other three, aged between 14

and 16 at the time of the killing, were sentenced to prison terms lasting decades. They were said to have been under the domination of Miss Cooper, a self-proclaimed disturbed girl who had a history of delinquency and was said to have been regularly abused by her father.

Miss Cooper's lawyer, Mr William Touchette, says the case has brought letters of support from around the world and particularly from Italy, where newspapers and television have taken it up.

He is hoping that the Pope will intercede on Miss Cooper's behalf with Indiana's Republican Governor, Mr Robert Orr, who has said he will not consider the question of clemency until all legal appeals have been exhausted. This could take years.

Mr Touchette and state prosecutors say they expect little movement until the Supreme Court in Washington decides on the appeal of a convicted murderer in Georgia, Warren McCleskey. His lawyers are arguing that blacks who kill whites are sentenced to death far more often than other races for the same crime.

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OWN POINT INDIAN
Paula Cooper pleaded with judge for compassion.

April 11-17, 1987

SATURDAY

A weekly guide
to leisure, entertainments
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A MASTER

The house was invaded, converted to a film set. A false wall in the sitting room imprisoned my books. Electric cables snaked up the stairs and huge lights glared at the cracks in the plaster. Out in the garden an outcrop of plastic cups testified to the length of the 80-strong film unit's stay. In the kitchen my family held their breaths or set out for the kettle on tip-toe. Upstairs Laurence Olivier was playing my father's death scene in the bed in which I had watched my father's life end.

"I'm always angry when I'm dying" — he said my father's almost last words, an actor playing a man who had had the courage to treat death as a sort of performance. At last the scene was over and we could all breathe, relax, talk again, go out into the garden to get tea and slabs of cake from the butty wagon. Laurence Olivier came down the stairs beaming, rejuvenated, as he always seems to be by playing any death scene.

"What an impossible character your father must have been," he said. "Of course, it's absolutely vital not to try and play him for sympathy."

I was happy then, knowing that if Olivier wasn't playing for sympathy, everyone who saw him would sympathize immediately with the central character in *A Voyage Round My Father*, just as he made the audience adore Richard III. All the same, it's hard to write dispassionately of an actor who has been your father, and died in your father's bed.

A lifetime before that, when I was 14 years old, I sat beside my father in the Old Vic and saw *Hamlet* in what used to be known, as though it were in some way an unusual experience, as its "entirety". I can remember everything about that production, the shape of the set, the taste of the coffee and sandwiches in the long interval, and Olivier's surprising way with the verse which, as was his wont, my father was intoning audibly from the front row of the stalls.

He was a young, intensely physical and constantly dangerous Hamlet. The next year we saw *Coriolanus* die in an extraordinary and athletic manner, rolling down a long flight of steps almost into our laps. Very young but not in the least athletic or dangerous, I

Lord Olivier
celebrates his
80th birthday
next month.

John Mortimer
describes the
technique of a
great virtuoso

had no idea that so many years later I would write three old men's parts for him, in two of which he would die unathletically and in bed.

"There was this old actor, on the stage playing Macbeth, and his company manager had to tell him that a fellow from the electricity board had come to cut off the lights. So he snatches up a hat and cloak, dashes up to Macbeth and says, conspiratorially, 'My Lord, there is one without who threatens, but for the passage of certain gold between ye, to douse your glim?'" Laurence Olivier loves this story, which might have been handed down from the old days in the Lyceum and retold by actors in the bars of Brighton and on the platform at Crewe during a Sunday change-over.

He also relishes the legend of Kean who, when someone in the pit called out, "You're drunk!" during *Richard III*, staggered down to the footlights and slurred out, "You think I'm drunk? Wait till you see the Duke of Buckingham." His laughter is pitched quite high, his cheeks become pink and his eyes moist with delight, but you would be mistaken to believe that under all this "old love" chat and the theatrical chestnuts there is not an immensely serious and startlingly original artist at work. Scratch an actor, Olivier has said, and you find an actor. In his case if you scratch an old actor, laddy, you are likely to find a genius.

Undoubtedly the greatest theatrical season in my lifetime was the Olivier, Richardson and Guthrie regime at the New Theatre with the Old Vic

Company. There he created his Richard III with a voice which used three notes in a parody of memories of Irving and a character founded on a peculiarly loathsome Austro-New York producer he had suffered under.

And there, in a dazzling display of technical virtuosity, he played Oedipus, and Mr Puff in *The Critic*, as a double bill. King Oedipus, condemned by the gods for a crime he didn't know he'd committed, uttered, at the terrible moment of blinding, a scream which has echoed in horror in my memory ever since.

"Tell me about the scream in Oedipus," I asked Olivier, still remembering it at the end of the 1970s when we had dinner in a small hotel, the Worsley Arms, in Yorkshire, near to Castle Howard and the shooting of *Brideshead Revisited*. The darkly handsome, doomed Greek king had given way to Lord Marchmain, returning home to die in an ornate Chinese bed having delighted himself, and his future audiences, with a series of mischievous and teasing attacks on his immediate family.

Olivier himself wore the scars of his heroic war with an illness which would have defeated ordinary mortals. Perhaps it was this campaign which gave him the upright and brave appearance of a retired military man, dressed in country tweeds. We consumed a large quantity of white burgundy and claret and he told me exactly how he had come by Oedipus's scream.

"First of all I thought of foxes. Little foxes with their paws caught in a steel trap," he held out thin wrists, still and helpless, "and then I heard about how they catch ermine. It was a great help to me when I heard about that. You don't know how they catch ermine?" He looked at me in a simulated wonder, astonished at my ignorance of facts vital to the acting business. "In the Arctic they put down salt and the ermine comes to lick it. It's caught when its tongue freezes to the ice. I thought about that when I screamed as Oedipus. It wasn't an *ah* or an *ugh* scream. More of an *err*."

So for a terrible moment, with the make-up blood streaming down his face, Olivier became a small, desperate animal with its soft, warm tongue frozen to the ice, for reasons it could no more understand than the tortured Oedipus.

The Sixties were happy times at the National Theatre, when the offices were in a series of leaking pre-fabs and the Old Vic was as exciting as when I had coffee and sandwiches there during the long interval with my father. Olivier gave the place an extraordinary glamour. He had led his troops into battle as Henry V, and smouldered with irascible rage as Heathcliff, and now he stalked the pre-fabs in a business suit improbably disguised as an executive producer accompanied by his eminence grise, the elitist Brechtian and immaculate left-wing hedonist, the late Ken Tynan.



I had translated a Feydeau farce, *Puce à l'Oreille*, which we called *Flea in her Ear*, and we sat in one of the pre-fabs, occasionally refreshed with apples and champagne, reading the English version aloud with Albert Finney, who was to play in it. Olivier discussed the placing of each joke, the shape of every sentence. He had learnt, he always said, so much from the timing of great comic performers like Jack Benny and Bob Hope and such lessons were not only useful in comedy.

George Robey's diction helped him to put across the great tragic arias with stunning clarity, and a version of the double-take was important to his tragic roles. He remembered Charlie Chaplin, who talked, it seems, somewhat portentously "in his half-American, half-Cockney accent; but of course he couldn't escape from the unlikely fact that he was a genius. I remember him saying, 'Hamlet was a young man who was subject to all life's stimuli.' Well, years later, I used the same rather pompous inflection on the word 'anthropophagi' in Othello's speech to the senators, so Charlie Chaplin got me a nice laugh."

So moments from the great comics flicker through his Hamlet, his Macbeth and his Lear, confirming my own belief that you can't do anything seriously unless you can act, or write, comedy.

Later I wrote another part for Olivier, the cantankerous old painter Henry Breasley in an adaptation of John Fowles' short novel *The Ebony Tower*. The story concerns a somewhat over-serious young abstract artist who travels to France to interview an impossible old genius who lives attended by two young girls. The serious interviewer tries to pluck the heart out of the old man's mystery.

By the time I wrote my version of *The Ebony Tower* I thought I knew Olivier's dialogue and could make Henry Breasley talk like him in his most mischievous and "dear boy" moods. Breasley is a supreme artist who can't explain his own magical powers.

"Don't give a toss where the ideas come from. Never have. Just grateful for them. You know there's really no point in asking me questions..." and, "Just paint (or act). Leave the clever talk to the poor sods who can't."

He described how he is

endlessly watching people, or hearing snatches of conversations, learning walks, nervous tics, plummy accents, affectations, and remembering speech rhythms. He tries the effect of putting today's street faces into other periods, or visiting the National Portrait Gallery to think about lighting and make-up. The actor, no less than the writer, has to be continually on the look-out.

The criticism which used to be made of Olivier's acting was that it was so technically brilliant, so hugely daring and inventive, that it must, in some strange way, lack heart. These ideas, fashionable in the days of so-called "method acting", arise from a plodding distrust of brilliance in the arts; anything really clever, it's thought, must be in some way insincere. That is, of course, rubbish. No two artists were ever so technically assured as Shakespeare and Mozart.

Olivier's great effects may come from a brilliant technique and a careful collection of observations, memories of comics, old actors and people on trains, but they remain unforgettable. Three in particular will live with me always: Oedipus's scream of agony, the moment when the grief of Archie Rice, *The Entertainer*, bursts out in the voice of an old, fat negro singing the blues, and a speech in *A Voyage Round My Father*

when my father's helpless laughter at one of his oldest and best legal anecdotes slithered into the choking gasp of his approaching death. Such moments may be sought for and found by the use of many superb technical devices but they become extraordinary revelations of the splendours and miseries of our life on earth.

Extracted from Olivier: In Celebration, edited by Garry O'Connor, to be published by Hodder & Stoughton on April 16 at £12.95

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Up other people's
garden paths in
search of design
ideas, page 12

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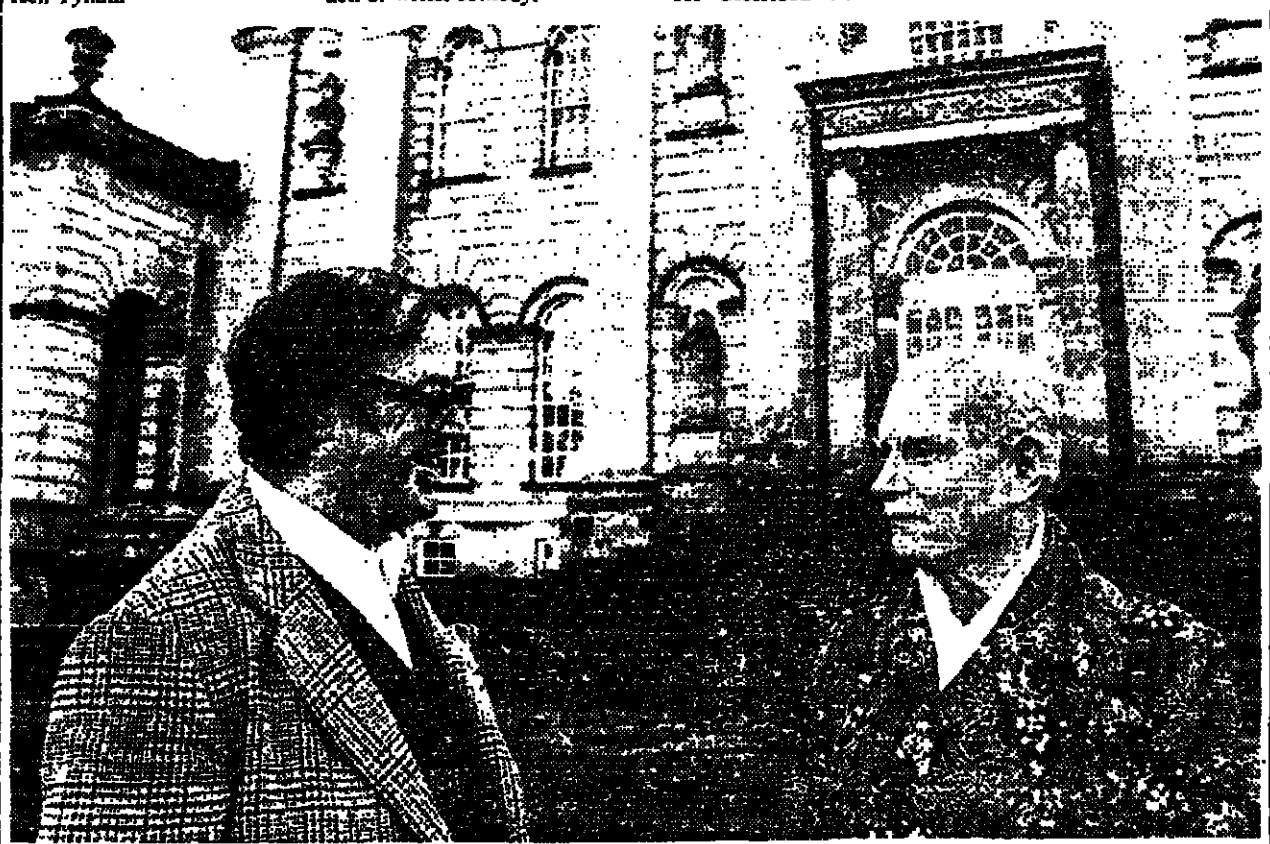
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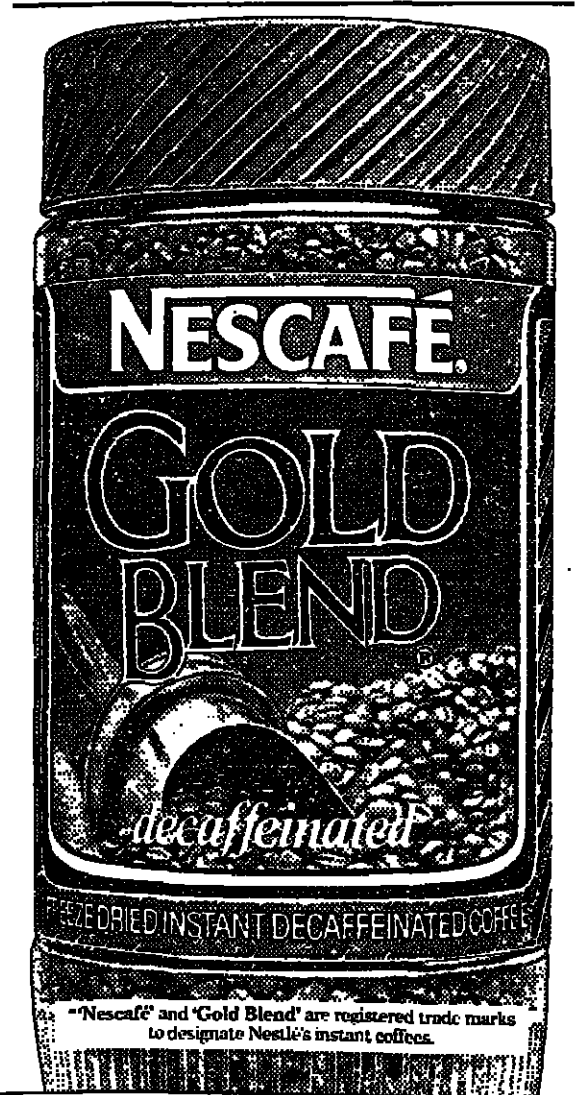
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Mortimer and Lord Olivier outside Castle Howard: "It's hard to write dispassionately of an actor who has been your father"

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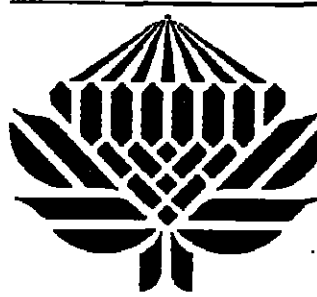
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CORFU	JUNE 11-18	5/10	2/2	3/3
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CORFU	JULY 23-30	5/10	2/2	3/3
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CORFU	AUG 13-20	5/10	2/2	3/3
CORFU	AUG 20-27	5/10	2/2	3/3
CORFU	AUG 27-SEP 3	5/10	2/2	3/3
CORFU	SEP 3-10	5/10	2/2	3/3
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CORFU	OCT 1-8	5/10	2/2	3/3
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LOW COST WORLDW

THE TIMES COOK

Eggs and bunnies on the Easter menu

With the holiday weekend in sight our guest cook, Lynda Brown, suggests making more use of the real thing in the kitchen while the children scoff the chocolates

Eggs are topical — well known chocolate artist Betty's of Harrogate, for example, expect to sell some 7,500 hand-made chocolate eggs this Easter. Now research from the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford suggests that for those already eating a healthy diet, increasing your real egg consumption from the national average of four a week to seven appears to have little effect on blood cholesterol levels. So there.

Meanwhile, after their long winter break, free range chickens are now laying with production-line fervour. Nutritionists are quick to point out there's no difference between battery and free range, but that ignores the gustatory pleasure they give.

The white, for example, of a proper free range egg has a delicious milky, slightly grainy texture, especially just-laid, which is wonderful coddled and never rubbery. As spring and summer progress, yolks gradually deepen to a glorious golden orange,

making for dazzling omelettes and saffron-hued sponges, as well as the lovely bright yellow lemon curd below — reason enough to buy them when you can on weekend jaunts to the country.

Here's an egg soup which strikes the right seasonal note. A variation of *avgolemono*, useful whenever fish stock of quality happens to be at hand.

Lemon and chervil soup

Serves 4

600ml/1pt fish stock

1 tablespoon rice

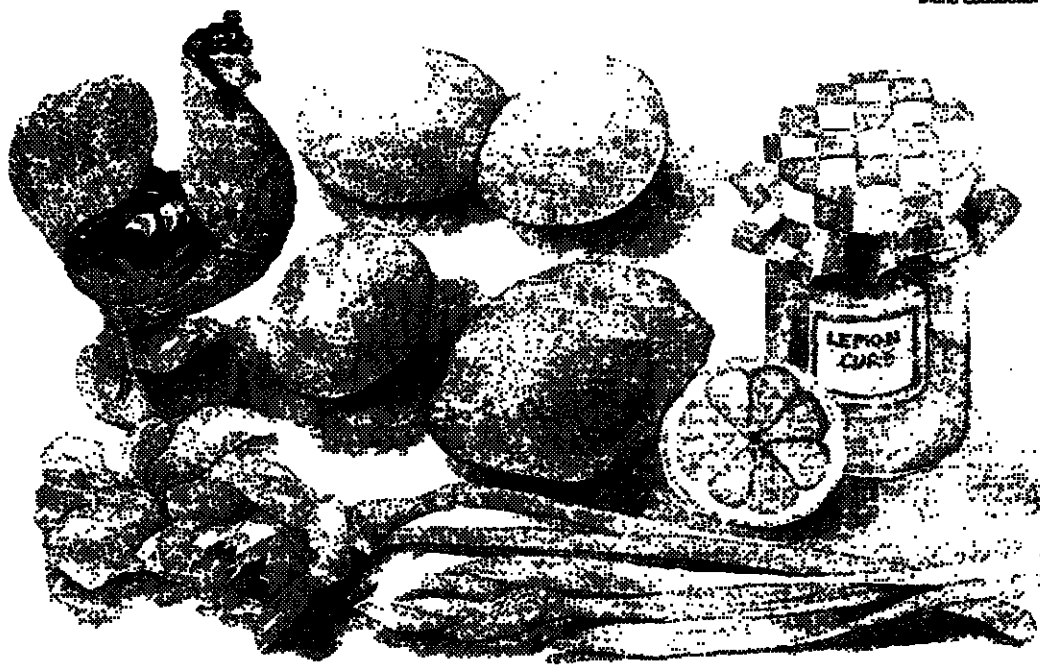
juice of one large lemon,

beaten with two eggs

1 tablespoon finely chopped

chervil

Simmer the rice in the fish stock in a covered pan until tender. Have the lemon and egg mixture ready in a bowl, whisk in a ladleful of broth, return the mixture to the pan, and keep whisking until the soup becomes foamy and thickens somewhat but on no account let it boil. Stir in the chervil and serve immediately.



Edible gifts are always welcome, more so when they are home made. Now is a good time for lemon curd, which is easy as pie to make. This is a fresh, tangy version, delicious also combined with yoghurt for filling cakes, or as a hot or cold sauce for desserts, or mixed with egg whites as a simple instant soufflé.

Lemon curd

Fills 2-3 small pots

2 large juicy lemons,

scrubbed in hot water

60g/2oz unsalted butter

75-90g/2½-3oz sugar

3 eggs, beaten

Grate the rind and strain the juice. Put into a double saucepan or basin set over simmering water with the butter and sugar, and let everything melt, stirring now and then. Tip in the eggs, strained through a sieve, and stir until thick and unctuous. Put in the usual way, keep in the fridge, and eat within 2-3 weeks.

Rabbits, too, are having a facelift, prompted no doubt by their lean, low-fat, high-protein profile. Wild rabbits are seasonal, October to early March, but commercially we produce around 4,000 tonnes annually, available all year round. The flavour of a commercial rabbit can be insipid compared to wild ones, but as they are ready at 10 weeks, tenderness is guaranteed. The Commercial Rabbit Association is enthusiastic about grilling them, and recommends cooking as for chicken.

The Tuscan are great rabbit and bean eaters. So was Parson Woodforde, the 18th-century country vicar famed for his diaries and love of food, though he preferred his plain. This is a dish for the coming month, redolent of the scent of Italy. Unless they're very large, which commercial rabbits aren't, one rabbit between four as a main course seems mean. The back and hind quarters from two, neatly jointed, are better, using the carcasses and bits for stock, and the forelimbs for pâté or potted meat. This dish is also successful with wild rabbit, but allow extra cooking time as necessary.

Rabbit with broad beans, basil and garlic sauce

Serves 4

approx 900g/2lb rabbit, jointed

1 shallot, finely sliced

340g/12oz shelled broad beans, fresh or frozen
240ml/8fl oz white wine
sprig of basil
12 fat cloves of garlic, peeled
approx 120ml/4fl oz single cream and water mixed
fried breadcrumbs and extra shredded basil
olive oil

Dust the rabbit pieces with flour and brown in a little olive oil in a frying pan, preferably non stick. Add the shallot, lower the heat and cook a little longer to soften. Add the beans, wine and basil, cover, and simmer very gently until the rabbit is cooked, about 25-35 minutes, depending on size.

Meanwhile, prepare the garlic. Begin by blanching the cloves in a small pan for 3-4 minutes, drain, just cover with the cream and water mixture, and simmer until very soft, a good 20 minutes. Mash or blend to a smooth purée.

Remove the rabbit pieces to a serving dish and keep warm. The beans should be soft — cook a little longer if necessary. Discard the basil, and then stir the garlic purée into the beans to make a thick sauce. Check the seasoning, pour round the rabbit, sprinkle with fresh basil and finish with a scattering of fried crumbs over the rabbit pieces to provide a crisp element. Serve with pasta.

DRINK

Bargain bubbles

Spring has brought its regular crop of wines to drink now or save for later

The long Easter weekend is an ideal excuse for a celebration. And this spring my vote for the cheapest and most delicious vintage champagne goes to Alfred Gratien's glorious 1979. I am not usually a fan of the '79 Champagne vintage, whose odd rustic scent and raw acidic style is just not worth the money. What makes but the '79 characteristics at all — just a pretty buttercup gold colour plus a lovely rich, yeasty, reminiscent nose and taste reminiscent of digestive biscuits. Arthur Rackham sell it at £15.69 a bottle, but Winecellars, 153/155 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18, have it at a ridiculously low £11.75 by the case, or £12.95 by the bottle, as does The Market.

Majestic have just opened their 21st branch in Bourne-mouth, which is good news for people in that area; but more useful still is their country-wide, wine-only mail-order service (contact Grant Farquhar on 01-736 1515). My spring white wine bargain buy here is the extraordinarily good Vin de Pays Charentais, priced at just £1.99 for the 70cl bottle. This water-white Vin de Pays is a moreish, crisp, clean herbaceous white with a slight touch of sweetness. Finer, but not dissimilar in style, is the splendid '86 Château La Joubert Bergerac Sec, priced at £3.29 from Majestic, and Henry Ryman's best vintage of this wine to date. I loved its fresh, elegant, elderflower and gooseberry-like scent and taste. Perfect as a spring aperitif or with fish.



The first joint of tender young spring English lamb deserves a delicate red wine to accompany it. Wines made from the Cabernet Franc grape are especially suitable with spring lamb, and Haynes, Hanson & Clark (17 Lettice Street, London SW6 and 36 Kensington Church Street, London W8) have two delicate examples available for tasting today at their W8 branch. The '85 Saumur-Champigny, made from young vines, comes from Filiatreau, one of my favourite domaines in the region, and its rich, grassy redcurrant taste is as spring-like as anyone could ask (£4.40 per bottle by the case, or £4.89 per bottle).

Fuller, richer and even more delicious is the fine '85 Chateau Cuvée des Varennes du Grand Clos, from Charles Jougnot, whose vivacious redcurrant fruit is fine now but can also be left to mature for several years (£6.20 per bottle by the case, or £6.85 by the bottle).

If you are on the lookout for

good, reasonably priced red wines to lay down and mature, write off straight away for Bibendum's splendid, well-written '83, '84 and '85 (single cases only) Rhône offer (closes April 30) from them at 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1. The wines, whose prices are ultra-keen, will be shipped any time between now and spring 1988, due to Bibendum's new policy of buying and shipping Rhône wines in bulk. My star bargain buy here is Chateau Beaucastel's '85 Cuvée de Coudet, with its ripe, velvety, seductive liquid summer-pudding-like mouthful (about £4.79).

Other more expensive star buys include the sensational, blackberry-like '85 Chateau Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape (about £7.38) plus the spicy, scented '85 Vieux Télégraphe (about £7.66) and the elegant, plummy '85 Clos des Papes (about £9), both from the same appellation.

Jane MacQuitty

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EATING OUT

Cooking from the old school

Jonathan Meades samples the students' efforts at two of Britain's catering colleges

In the corner of Vincent Square and Rochester Row stands one of London's few fine buildings of the early 1950s. This is Westminster College, whose catering school runs an "instructional" restaurant where the public may sample the efforts of trainee waitresses and teenage chefs and boy sommeliers.

But wherever the students go when they graduate, they will not find employment immediately across the road at Simply Nico, for Mr Nico Ladenis is just one of a number of top-flight cooks who would rather have anyone in his kitchen than a graduate of a British catering college.

Having visited two such seats of learning in the past week it's not difficult to see why. What these places appear to be doing is training cooks in the practices of dismal provincial hotels of 30 years ago.

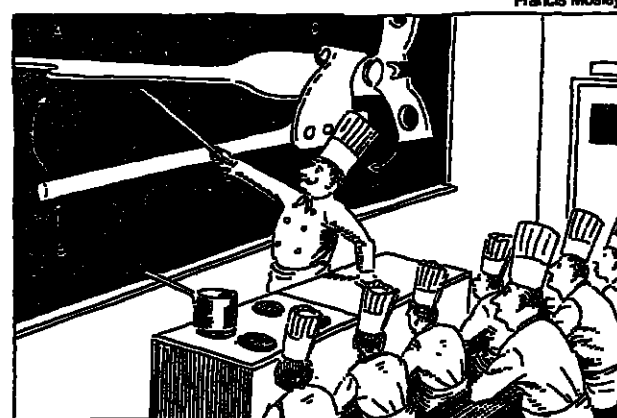
One of the problems, of course, is that catering tends to be regarded as a last-ditch career: another, I assume, from the evidence literally set before me at Westminster and Southgate, is that the people who teach in these places are

out of touch with all but the most wretchedly conservative practices of the world outside.

A third problem, probably the greatest, is that the majority of students who pursue courses in these colleges arrive from backgrounds of gastronomic bereavement, with no idea of what good food should be and with that frivolis puritanical British disinclination to take food seriously. A French cook told me, with a mix of astonishment and frustration, that a couple of students he took on from a Home Counties catering school would rather eat sausage rolls and crisps than the dishes he was attempting to show them. He likened them to blind painters.

Given the sort of food that the majority of this nation is happy to eat, the blind painters will probably continue to triumph, save in a tiny percentage of establishments. The horrible truth is that for all the talk of a "restaurant revolution" the dismal provincial hotels of 30 years ago are still going strong.

From a diner's point of view the main attraction of catering school restaurants is their



Francis Mosley

cheapness. The set lunch at Westminster College costs £5.20 and is popular with pensioners, other students from the college and jolly gangs of clerks and their girls.

First courses here included a risotto that was gluey, that was not cooked in stock, that was littered with a tiny dice of tomato and bits of mushroom. It was like a dish that you find in a downmarket women's magazine.

There was also something in the air called *assiette maison*, some of whose ingredients came out of tins — bottled "mayonnaise" on a hard-boiled egg, soggy pickled hering, a tomato that someone had started to sculpt but

abandoned, diced beetroot, some sweetcorn.

Main courses were rather better: calves' liver with bacon, the liver not too extravagantly overcooked; poorly trimmed lamb with a sauce that was allegedly made from Madeira. One of the sweets was a properly made Paris-Brest, the other a rubbery chocolate bavaroi. With a bottle of Pinot and a couple of glasses the bill was £17.30.

At Southgate, Tech teachers seem to attach less importance to proficiency in opening tins. But they also seem to encourage "ambition", which means that the dishes tend to be over-complicated. A consommé was

ruined by a chunk of soggy Welsh rarebit which had floated in it for hours; kedgeree was served with a "curry" sauce made from English curry powder; chicken was given a roux-based sauce that tasted of flour and insufficiently-cooked wine. But the consommé itself was competent, and so was the kedgeree.

An underspiced goulash was partially rescued by decent meat and well-made thimble dumplings. An unnecessarily copious selection of vegetables was offered: aubergines greasy with cheap oil, lukewarm Lyonnaise potatoes, potato croquettes with cream in the middle, carrots, nasty mushrooms sprinkled with sweetcorn, and so on.

The service was solicitous and friendly — which makes the proscription of tips meaningless. With a bottle of grocer's wine, one brandy and several mineral waters the bill was £25.

Westminster College, Vincent Square, SW1 (01-828 1222), 12-1.30pm Mon to Fri during term time. Southgate Technical College, High Street, N14 (01-886 9570), 12.15-2pm Mon to Fri and 7-9.30pm Tues and Thurs during term time.

SHOPPING

Armchair crafts

Armchair collectors may find buying contemporary crafts easier now, thanks to a new mail order catalogue produced by Holly House, a Crafts Council-recommended gallery in Tynemouth. In the form of a loose-leaf portfolio (so new makers can be added regularly) it features glass, ceramics, wood, jewellery and textiles. According to Timandra Gustafson, the gallery's joint director, it aims to offer as wide a selection as possible with pieces chosen for both quality and the reliability of makers' delivery dates. To receive a copy, send two 18p stamps to: Holly House, 14 Front Street, Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear NE30 4DX.



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Atium. So, to switch us on, they've launched a new lighting section with an exhibition of some brilliance by Martin

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Give your fruit juices and cocktails some polar chic with chips of icebergs cleaned, cracked, purified and packaged by a company called, appropriately, Royal Greenland. Mini icebergs cost £2.49 for 1kg bag from Selfridges' wines and spirits department.

Nicole Swengley

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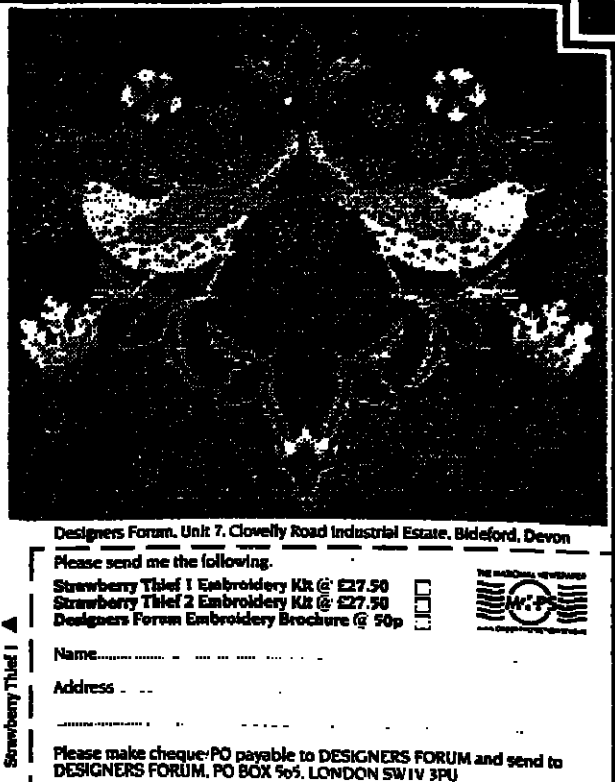
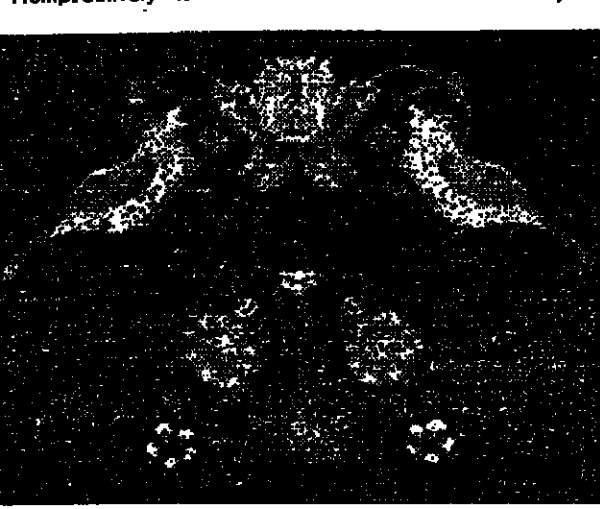
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IN THE GARDEN 2

Pathways to perfection

It is easy to be so intimidated by the terminology of garden design that we play safe, ending up with gardens that are tidy and easily maintained, but utterly alien to our real needs. We should be more adventurous: there is a growing tendency to conceive of the garden not as "something out there" which "gets out of hand", but an extension of our living space which we can furnish to our own specific needs.

With this attitude, one can approach books on garden design less seriously, treating them like cookery books, as a source of ideas and food for the imagination. Best of all, though, is to visit lots of other people's gardens. I find that even gardens I don't much like help to give me a sense of perspective: knowing what you don't want is very useful when planning a garden. Nor need we be depressed by the grandeur of stately gardens when compared to our own plot: much of today's most interesting garden design is focused on the smaller garden.

When I start a new garden, the urge to immediately plant a fruit tree and some of my favourite flowering plants is quite irresistible. But I believe that the best garden design develops slowly, out of experience and recognition. Some people find they plan best on paper, but I find I need to move physical objects around the garden to get a sense of how a new project will turn out. Planks, bamboos, logs, old furniture and lengths of hose pipe can be used to rough out the proportions of ponds, beds, arches and screens and can prevent bad mistakes.

A path is both a physical and a conceptual route through the garden and calls for careful attention in the early planning stages. Single straight-up, straight-down paths are dull, but do remember that milkmen and other daily traders will not stop to admire the view but naturally take the quickest way to your door.

However, paths can be varied in width, direction and texture. Heavily used routes probably require stone, paving or bricks (or a combination of them), giving fairly direct access, while others can take you off waywardly on stepping stones, narrow walks and grassy ways.

The gardens I enjoy most have a strong sense of personality. This is why model gardens at shows, designed for nobody in particular, seldom feel comfortable. I like to do things myself — make my own

Do not let the technicalities of garden layout and design stop you from obtaining the results you — and your imagination — really want



mistakes, you might say — but if you are planning to stay in a house for only a few years and require instant effect, then you should probably consult a professional firm.

Go and see examples of their work elsewhere and make sure you talk through the plans very thoroughly before you take them on. Always get a firm quotation.

There are some things which, if you can afford the expense, are nearly always more easily and safely carried out by professionals: certain kinds of paving, steps, summerhouses and so-called "water

features" fall into this category, though even these should not be beyond the scope of a gifted and committed amateur.

Nobody who has had a pool or fountain can ever hear of being without water in a garden. There is an enormous choice available at present: you can make a pond to your own design, buy a grand, dolphin fountain and pool as a central feature for a large garden or a tiny lion fountain which can fit on a garage wall.

Garden lighting is another area of huge choice and innovation.

Whereas in the past one aimed simply to conduct visitors safely from the street to the front door, modern lighting enables a subtle means to this end, and an opportunity to open the garden up to evening use in the summer. It is important to plan lighting at an early stage, however, so you don't have to dig up expensive constructed paths and patios to lay cable.

The potager, the vegetable garden as art form, is one of the most attractive garden ideas to be revived. The most famous example is at Chateau de Villandry in the Loire valley, which inspired Rosemary Verey to make an English interpretation in her gardens at Batsley House in Gloucestershire. Joy Loomer then scaled it down even further for the small domestic garden.

With its small, symmetrically-placed beds, decorative paths and arches, and mixtures of food and flowering plants it is both ornamental and functional.

Current thinking emphasizes structure and design, regarding the plants themselves almost indiscriminately, as a kind of ornamental extra. Like all extreme positions, it overstates the case, but it has served to nudge those of us who tended to concentrate almost entirely on the plants into an awareness of a wider range of possibilities.

Our affinity for certain kinds of plant is, of course, as important a part of garden planning as any structural feature; some of us yearn for a personal arboretum, others for rocks, raised beds full of alpines, expanses of lawn or cottage borders. The thrill of garden design is for each of us to find our own expression.

Out of the thousand of books on garden design, I found *Classic Garden Design* by Rosemary Verey (Viking, £14.95) particularly useful — an imaginative interpretation of a wide range of traditional garden ideas.

Derek Mansfield's new *The Fitted Garden* (Ward Lock, £9.95) is sometimes outrageous, always fun and has plenty of ideas. Works by John Brookes and Kenneth Midgley are good and practical.

Finally, Tom Turner's *English Garden* shows a marvellous span of gardening fashions since the mid-17th century, with pictures on every page (Antique Collectors Club, £19.50).

F.G.

GARDENING NEWS

SUPER STRAWBERRIES: Watch out for the Aromel strawberry, which should just be coming into garden centres. Its virtue is that it continues to produce fruit well after the main strawberry season. Such "perpetual fruiting" or "day neutral" strawberries have been used for many years by commercial growers, but until now they haven't been taken up by the domestic market to any great extent. Pride of Place Plants (who last year introduced the excellent Butterflies Blue Scabious) claim Aromel strawberries fruit from August to October, but field trials have shown this to be an understatement. If anything, and plots in Norfolk continued to give fruit until November.

They produce runners so you can build up stock for the future. Aromel crops well, producing medium-sized, firm, strawberries with soft red flesh. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food describes the taste as "very good" which is high praise, coming from them.

Aromel strawberries should be available from good garden centres from now on at about £4.49 for an individually potted set of six.

SAFER CONTAINERS: If you use chemical insecticides and pesticides on your garden, you will be pleased to hear that ICI is providing new safer containers which are virtually unbreakable and don't leak.

These containers come with useful measuring caps, and the screw-tops are child resistant. ICI has also increased the clarity and size of print on the labels so instructions are clearer and hazard warnings are more legible.

IN FOCUS: It's about time to take cameras out of winter storage so you can be ready to capture your own and other people's gardens as they come into flower. Kodak has produced a free leaflet which gives advice on ways of photographing gardens and garden plants.

Write, specifying *Photographing Gardens and Gardens*, to Kodak Advisory Service, 5-11 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8SH. Please enclose a first class stamp.

NEW BOOKS: Take a peek over the walls of the 24 celebrity gardens featured in *Gardens of the Heart*, by Susan Chivers and Suzanne Woloszyńska (Chatto & Windus £14.95). A useful text for beginners at the start of the season is *The Idiot Gardener's Handbook*, written with great understanding — by Daphne Ledward (Robson Books £5.95). Two gardeners with a passionate commitment to working with nature rather than combating it — Margaret Elphinstone (who lived in the famous Findhorn Community in the north of Scotland) and Julia Langley — have collaborated to produce a practical, informative and readable gardening manual, *The Holistic Gardener* (Thorsons £6.99).

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

Continued from page 10

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THE ARTS

Frostily flippant

"Hello, good evening, and welcome" — the all-too-familiar nasal intoning is less self-parodic these days, the chin not thrust so impishly forward at the camera as in those irreverently pioneering *TW3* days, which is just as well as Frost, even in his m-discriminating dotage, seemed a little shamefaced in his jocularly while fronting Yorkshire's peeping Tomfoolery of a programme, *Through The Keyhole* (ITV).

Not, of course, that anyone was meant to take seriously this TV dog's dinner of packaged popular entertainment, combining quiz, chat show and titillating gawp which has Lloyd Grossman giving us with teasing tartness a guided tour of celebrities' homes and a panel of yet more celebrities humorously — guessing the owners — who then pay a little too suggestively through a large keyhole to be given a Frostie welcome. The vital added ingredient of sexual

TELEVISION

innuendo of this "blind date" encounter of panel and guests was provided by Chris Tarrant's musing on Linda Lusardi's pert rear pictured on her wall and Freddie Starr's invitation to Eve Pollard to share his manorship of a bed. No sooner had we said goodbye to David and Lloyd, however, than it was hello, good evening, and welcome to both of them again in *Arena's* entertaining look at chat shows. *Talk Is Cheap* (BBC2) was in fine *Arena* style — an ironical ramble of cross-cutting and slick genre-bending conceits.

The more roguish might call it "the construction", which in this case means giving the TV-less Malcolm Muggeridge a set and filming him watching himself on it and Frost, Harry and Co taking part in a chat show about chat shows, which didn't quite work. Lloyd contented himself with "deconstructing" the *Wogan* set. However, as always with *Arena*, the starring role was given to the selection of old clips. Some old favourites appear in two or three programmes — yet again Hancock was shown face to face with John Freeman. My favourites, though, were a squirmingly off-beat Kerouac and Ralph Richardson superbly up-staging a Harty interview — not so much deconstruction as old-fashioned taking someone apart.

Andrew Hislop



Intricate pattern of love's strengths and weaknesses: Judi Dench and Antony Hopkins

John Bull Bristol Old Vic

Cornwall around 1800: a damsel (seduced by the local squire's son, then abandoned) wandering on the moor. It sounds like Daphne du Maurier country, but the remote inn in which the unfortunate Mary finds refuge is not Jamaica but the Red Cow, a hostelry run by the drunken Irishman Dennis Burgrud-dery and his wife, which would not have featured in an Egon Kneay guide of the period.

George Coleman the younger's *John Bull* is a rollicking mixture of Regency carry-on and robust social satire, with a dash of sentimental patriotism for which the Napoleonic wars may be responsible. The Old Vic's decision to stage this play, written in 1803 and revived by Ronald Bryden after more than a century's neglect, is amply justified by Roger Rees's deft production, in which the humour is never allowed to become too broad, the sententiousness is sent up without heavy-handedness and the social criticism comes through with sufficient force to provoke thought.

He is helped by Kit Surrey's clever set and a fine cast, with Niall Buggy revelling in the part of the lubricated and lubricious landlord, David

Rintoul as the immoral fashion-conscious rake and Vivien Heilbron bawling the yokels with her modishly incomprehensible vowels. Terence Hardiman has the hardest role in *Peregrine*, an absurd mixture of Prospero and Batman who specializes in rescuing distressed damsels and saving honest traders from bailiffs.

Perhaps the play's most interesting and original character is John Thornberry, the honest brazier laid low by the ruin of both his fortune and his daughter. He eventually gets reparation on both scores and on the way his humble but worthy profession provides opportunity for criticism of upper-class hypocrisy.

There is neat play on the two senses of brass (he makes the real kind, which people need for cooking utensils) and of equity (stock and justice), as Coleman establishes him as the true bulldog breed of honest capitalist Englishmen. We can imagine what this worthy trader (played by Joseph O'Connor as a Cornish John Laurie) would make of a Tory MP putting in multiple applications for BT shares. To prevent us from taking the patriotism too seriously, though, the play's final icon of a triumphant bulldog is a grotesque piece of kitsch.

Harry Eyres

Repetition's rhythmic grace

The degree of repetitiveness in Beethoven's "Pastoral" symphony is central to its essence, to its avoidance of drama and to its behaviour as an oft-told tale: with such an abundance of circling motifs and melodies in the piece, even the first audience must have felt they were hearing something they remembered.

But this paramount feature of the work does make it exceedingly difficult for any conductor to manage a fresh rehearing, which is why Karl Anton Rickenbacher's performance with the Philharmonia last night was, in its quite unspectacular way, so special.

CONCERT

Philharmonia/Rickenbacher Festival Hall

To some extent the freshness was quite simply a freshness of sound: a clarity of texture, and a precision of articulation, particularly among the woodwind, with the horns adding their own fine bloom. But Rickenbacher also brought a light rhythmic grace to the music, which never was allowed to become

in the least stodgy or lumberous.

Indeed, the first movement and the storm episode were shown to have a dancing vitality, partly attained in the first case by a tempo towards the upper range of *allegro ma non troppo*, but more than this due to crispness of beat within a flowing legato. Given that Rickenbacher was substituting at short notice for an indisposed Esa-Pekka Salonen, his achievement of this performance was all the more admirable.

The distant account of Ravel's *Mother Goose* suite at the start was less so; and I can never imagine why orchestras programme just the suite when the complete ballet lasts only 10 minutes longer and adds such wonderful music. But there were no short measures in Age Haugland's singing of Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*, to the Shostakovich orchestration. As a distinguished Boris, he commands both the grandeur and the anxiety this cycle requires; though because Mussorgsky's expression comes so much out of the sounds of the words, his performance might be still more acute for a little more care with pronunciation. Nevertheless, this was rich and powerful singing.

Paul Griffiths

Electrifying detail and tragic exhilaration

THEATRE

Antony and Cleopatra Olivier

Peter Hall's production opens on a nobly ruined amphitheatre with the sight of an immensely dignified Philo advancing to the centre of the stage to deliver his admonition on Antony's transformation "into a strumpet's fool". The tragic doorway then swings open and in comes the "triple pillar of the world" in the person of Antony Hopkins, being carried piggy-back and yanked along by Judi Dench's Cleopatra at the end of a rope. At the threat of Roman news he dismounts, and stuns the messengers into silence by rolling his partner around on the floor, both of them in paroxysms of lascivious giggles. It is the abiding glory and director's nightmare of this

play that it combines the greatest nobility and the pettiest emotions within the same characters. Perhaps we are seeing this production simply because, for the first time in living memory, the English stage has two actors capable of doing full justice to the roles. But there is also the question of the setting. The text seems to demand the strongly contrasted world of Rome and Egypt. Hall and his designer Alison Chitty have replaced this with an environment drawn from Renaissance painting.

The effect is to create an idealized environment. Costume and setting alike proclaim heroic perfection: absolute purity of love, invincible physical and moral strength. The opposite, in short, of the aging couple whose besotted love destroys them and their empires. If the stage picture applies to anyone it is to Octavius, who is always proclaiming what should be, rather than to the lovers, who are concerned only with what is.

However, as the opening example shows, there are powerful effects to be gained through exposing fallible human behaviour in a super-human setting. Also, the tragic exhilaration of the work derives from the fact that the lovers, by their separate routes, finally do work their heroic salvation. In any case, with a last tango such as this, the production would take you by the throat even played on a windy day on Brighton pier. The partnership presents an intricate pattern of strengths and weaknesses. Hopkins is the passive partner, allowing himself to be seduced because he believes himself invulnerable. Dench is dominant and restlessly active because she fears she may lose him.

Within these outlines, their detail and speed are electrifying. And, until the musical imperatives of the closing scenes take over, there is not a note of rhetoric to be heard. This is particularly striking in Hopkins's case: as he resists all the invitations to rage and

despair, instead he presents a smilingly relaxed figure, patronizing Octavius (a brilliant study in graceless tension by Tim Pigott-Smith). There are flashes of Antony the politician and the joker (dancing an ironic *pas de deux* with John Bluthal's Lepidus in the galley scene), but the magnitude of the performance is that of a man with too much dignity to exhibit his real despair to his followers.

Miss Dench starts from the opposite position, as a creature moving too fast ever to be pinned down. Her restless prowling and incessant jerks of the head reflect her inner caprice, instantly cancelled orders, and emotional somersaults that ensure that she always has the whip hand. Then, just when such a thing seems impossible, she melts into submissiveness and the true voice of feeling. It is a performance of fearless self-exposure, going to the brink of farce even in the death scene.

Irving Wardle

Lost words of a confirmed fascist

Later this month sees the first publication of two 'new' poems in their original Italian by the controversial Ezra Pound

*Gloria della patria!
Gloria gloria
Morir per la patria
nella Romagna!
Morti non mori son!
Io tornato son!
dal terzo cielo
per veder la Romagna,
Per veder le montagne
nella riscossa
Che bell'inverno!
Nel sentinon rinasce la patria.
Ma che ragazzo!
che ragazzo!
portan' il nero! >>*

An extract (above) from one of the two unpublished poems, and (right), Ezra Pound photographed in 1958 giving a fascist-style salute



seemed to embody all that was finest and all that was worst in the 20th century. On the one hand, he was a poet of surpassing sensitivity and beauty (T.S. Eliot called him "the greater craftsman"); on the other, he was fanatically anti-semitic and a paranoid defender of fascism.

Attitudes towards him have been correspondingly extreme. In 1945 *The Spectator* rejoiced at his capture and imprisonment by the Americans: "Altogether a repellent person who seems likely now to receive part, at any rate, of his deserts." Yet in 1949 he was awarded a major US literary prize — the judges included Eliot and W.H. Auden — for the *Pisan Cantos* which he wrote while

imprisoned in a tiny cage and subsequently a small tent by the Americans at Pisa.

Now the combination of his finest work and his labours as a literary entrepreneur in the years before the war have established, for most people, his place among the great figures of 20th-century literature.

The two poems now to be published were written in 1943. They were aimed specifically, says Laughlin, at Mussolini, from whom Pound was hoping to receive some kind of state bursary. But by then El Duce's luck had begun to desert him.

Humphrey Carpenter, whose massive 420,000-word volume *A Serious Character: The Life of Ezra Pound* is to be

published next year, said they were subsequently published in the journal *Marina Republicana* in 1944. By that time, however, Italy was being ruled by a puppet regime controlled from Berlin and even Pound must have seen that the writing was on the wall.

Together they form part of the vast sequence of poems in the new edition of the *Cantos* runs to over 800 pages — in which Pound attempted to create a unified vision of world culture. At times this work includes magnificent poetry; some of it, however, is incoherent nonsense. The two new poems may fall in the latter category.

For a start, Pound's com-

mand of Italian was no more than adequate and certainly insufficient to permit him to produce great poetry. Second, the tone is blatantly propagandist. In Carpenter's translation the first poem includes the line "Alamein, Alamein, we will return!" and the second praises the murderous little girl and her male counterparts: "What a wench! What fine lads wear the black!"

In Carpenter's view, Pound's genius has been overrated. "The politics cannot be separated from the poetry," he says. "He was not a figure of the stature of Joyce or Eliot, his obsessions were simply too overpowering."

Laughlin remembers Pound from the early Thirties, when he was an inspirational teacher and a literary giant, to the last years of his life, when, as a confused and embittered old man, he used to complain: "I can't concentrate. My head has gone." But the madness, he believes, cannot diminish Pound's achievement. "It was very sad," Laughlin explained, "but some of his doctors did once say to me you must judge him medically, not morally."

He added that he believes these two *Cantos* represent the last unpublished completed poems, though he has seen many fragments on papers in the Yale University archive.

Bryan Appleyard

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Pound reprinted by permission of Faber & Faber Ltd, from the *Cantos* by Ezra Pound, (in the new edition to be published on April 27). © Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust 1987.

John Caird is currently leading a one-man crusade to promote the plays of Ben Jonson. He talks to David Nokes

Setting Ben against Bill

"He's the kind of man you instinctively think of as Ben," said John Caird, attempting to explain his crusading obsession with Ben Jonson. "I mean, you never think of Shakespeare as Bill, do you?" Shakespeare's personality, we agreed, was altogether too elusive and diffuse for such familiarity. But Ben was the kind of chap it would be wonderful to spend an evening with down the pub.

Caird's acclaimed production of *Every Man in His Humour* at the RSC's new Swan Theatre transfers on Monday to the Mermaid. Meanwhile he is working on a production of *The New Inn* to open at the Swan in the autumn. And he promises plenty more Jonsons to come. *A Tale of a Tub*, *The Magnificent Lady*, *The Poetaster* — all magnificent plays — he declared: all crying out for a production. "I mean to go on doing Jonson until people are forced to recognize that a genius he is." It was going to be an uphill task, he acknowledged, grinning as he relished the challenge.

Caird has a wide college-boy smile and an enthusiasm to match. He has been at the RSC since 1977 and his credits include co-direction with Trevor Nunn of *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Les Misérables*. But Jonson has become his very own special cause. People (by which he appeared to mean critics and academics) were so full of prejudices about Jonson, he said, although the reviews of *Every Man in His Humour* were generally favourable, the critics had all gone on about how Jonson's theory of the humours reduced the characters to two-dimensional caricatures. "They just came to have their prejudices reinforced," he complained.

"The characters are totally real. Just because someone is called Jonson doesn't mean he has to trundle about the stage all the time." He would not, he promised, present the character called *Fly* in *The New Inn* as a mere human insect, flitting about with wings on his back. It was a mistake to see Jonson's plays as strip-cartoons of eccentrics.

Every Man in His Humour is one of Jonson's earliest plays; *The New Inn* one of his latest, so what of the difference between them? "You can feel him flexing his muscles in *Every Man in His Humour*. It's full of a kind of thrill, like someone discovering sex for the first time." *The New Inn* was also thrilling but in a different way. Mellow, humane and forgiving, it provided all the satisfaction of a complete masterpiece. Without doubt you could detect in it the influence of Shakespeare's final plays.

What excitement Jonson must have felt when he read through the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays. "He wouldn't have been able to sleep for brooding on it." But whereas Shakespeare's great drama of human reconciliation is set on an enchanted island, Jonson's take place in a pub. "It's completely real. It's the world he knew best." Walking into the Swan theatre, the audience will also be walking into the pub, taking their place alongside the familiar pub cronies, the drinkers, boasters, cheats and ne'er-do-wells.

But why, I asked him, this particular obsession with Jonson rather than with Webster, Middleton or Tourneur? The trouble with that lot, he felt, was bile. They were all too negative and dyspeptic. They reminded him of the post-

1968 generation of playwrights, the ones who couldn't forgive England for failing to live up to the hopes of the 1960s. The ones in whose plays you were constantly abused for being able to afford the price of the tickets. But if Brenson is the Webster of our times, who, I wondered, is our Jonson. "I don't think there is one. Would that there were."

When he was working recently on a production of *Misalliance*, Caird kept a bust of GBS in the room while the actors rehearsed. In this way the personality of the man was always with them. But with Jonson, Caird has no need of a bust to evoke the playwright's presence. He seems to have imbibed all the old man's humours. "You don't get away from him," he said, as if referring to some familiar spirit. Together Caird and his old friend Ben are set upon a mission to transform our view of Jacobean theatre.

ARTURO UI

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BRIDGE

Detective work

Once every few years someone revives the dear old Losing Trick Count, which first appeared in 1935. Originally the brainchild of D. Courtenay and Colonel Walshe, it received the enthusiastic support of Harrison-Gray, who published a pamphlet introducing his own embellishments in 1961. As a method of hand valuation it is, I dare say, as good as any. But, despite all the ingenuity of Ron Klinger, author of *The Modern Losing Trick Count* (Collins, £5.95), the supposition that it is an answer to all problems in the bidding will prove no more reliable than the country GP's bottle of tonic.

"Pretend you are a detective. Ask yourself, 'What on earth is going on here?'" Danny Roth suggests in his book *Clues to Winning Play* (Collins, £3.95). Quite right, that is the only way to address your mind to a problem at the bridge table. Experience may help, but only those who are prepared to sift the evidence before making a decision will be consistently successful.

Roth uses the single dummy format to present 60 very good hands in a crisp economic style. But unlike most authors, he refuses to take the reader by the hand to lead the reader, arguing that, in real life, the recognition that there is a problem is at least half the battle.

As a "gentle warm-up", Roth invites you to take the East hand on this deal.

Teams: East-West game. Dealer South.

W	N	E	S
10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10

W N E S
10 10 10 10
10 10 10 10
10 10 10 10
10 10 10 10

"South should have at least 19 points, but if he has a good long club suit he may have less. Therein lies your hope of defeating the contract. Your partner leads the ♠6, which you may assume to be his fourth highest. You contribute the Queen, losing to declarer's King. Declarer crosses to dummy with the ♠K and calls for the ♠7. Plan your defence."

Those who have seen it all before advance the ♠K with a smug look, which is swiftly erased when Roth reveals declarer's hand.

But against that hand there is no defence, you object. Roth concedes that, but suggests you have missed a fine chance to lead declarer astray.

Suppose at trick two, instead of following with the ♠4, you had dropped an honour. If declarer takes the card at face value, his correct percentage line is to return to hand to finesse the ♠8. The stratagem may not work, but it costs nothing to try.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Legendary odds

Remarkable figures abound in the lore and legends of games. Among the most outlandish was Alexandre Deschappelles, a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars. Left for dead on one battlefield he lost his right hand but, fortunately, retained his left with which he continued to fight duels. Undaunted by the amputation he played billiards with his stump. The Deschappelles coup in Whist (leading an unsupported high honour to establish entry in partner's hand) is named after him.

Deschappelles clearly also had a tremendous talent for chess, and his reputation in the old French school is subordinate only to that of Philidor and de la Bourdonnais, whose mentor he was. Deschappelles seemed averse to conceding any opponent the honour of facing him on level terms. Those few games of his which do survive are mainly at odds, and they display a fine grasp of positional principles allied with a distinct flair for tactics.

This is the best of his extant games:

White: Cochrane; Black: Deschappelles. Paris 1821, played at odds of pawn and two moves. Remove Black's f7 pawn and give White two moves at start.

1 e4 2 d4 3 Nf3 4 Bc4 5 Nc3 6 Bb3 7 cxd4 8 Qb6 9 Nc3 10 Bb7

Rather slow. Better is 9 Bd3 and if 9... Nxd4? 10 Nxd4 Qxd4 11 Bg5+ wins Black's Queen.

9... Nf6 10 Nd3 11 Ne2 12 Bc7 13 Qd4

Inconsistent with his modest 9th move, Cochrane's conduct of this part of the game is rash and loosening.

12... Bb4+ 13 Nc4 14 Kf2 15 Qd4 16 Bc7

Introducing a deadly counter attack.

17 Bc2 18 Bxb4 19 Bxb4 20 Bxb4 21 Bxb4 22 Bxb4 23 Bxb4 24 Bxb4 25 Bxb4 26 Bxb4 27 Bxb4 28 Bxb4 29 Bxb4 30 Bxb4 31 Bxb4 32 Bxb4 33 Bxb4 34 Bxb4 35 Bxb4 36 Bxb4 37 Bxb4 38 Bxb4 39 Bxb4 40 Bxb4 41 Bxb4 42 Bxb4 43 Bxb4 44 Bxb4 45 Bxb4 46 Bxb4 47 Bxb4 48 Bxb4 49 Bxb4 50 Bxb4 51 Bxb4 52 Bxb4 53 Bxb4 54 Bxb4 55 Bxb4 56 Bxb4 57 Bxb4 58 Bxb4 59 Bxb4 60 Bxb4 61 Bxb4 62 Bxb4 63 Bxb4 64 Bxb4 65 Bxb4 66 Bxb4 67 Bxb4 68 Bxb4 69 Bxb4 70 Bxb4 71 Bxb4 72 Bxb4 73 Bxb4 74 Bxb4 75 Bxb4 76 Bxb4 77 Bxb4 78 Bxb4 79 Bxb4 80 Bxb4 81 Bxb4 82 Bxb4 83 Bxb4 84 Bxb4 85 Bxb4 86 Bxb4 87 Bxb4 88 Bxb4 89 Bxb4 90 Bxb4 91 Bxb4 92 Bxb4 93 Bxb4 94 Bxb4 95 Bxb4 96 Bxb4 97 Bxb4 98 Bxb4 99 Bxb4 100 Bxb4 101 Bxb4 102 Bxb4 103 Bxb4 104 Bxb4 105 Bxb4 106 Bxb4 107 Bxb4 108 Bxb4 109 Bxb4 110 Bxb4 111 Bxb4 112 Bxb4 113 Bxb4 114 Bxb4 115 Bxb4 116 Bxb4 117 Bxb4 118 Bxb4 119 Bxb4 120 Bxb4 121 Bxb4 122 Bxb4 123 Bxb4 124 Bxb4 125 Bxb4 126 Bxb4 127 Bxb4 128 Bxb4 129 Bxb4 130 Bxb4 131 Bxb4 132 Bxb4 133 Bxb4 134 Bxb4 135 Bxb4 136 Bxb4 137 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THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE

NAKED TRUTH: Susie Blake, who has appeared on television with Russ Abbot and Victoria Wood, joins fellow television faces William Gault and Michael Shevill-Martin from *No Place Like Home* in *When Did You Last See Your... Trousers?*, a farce by Ray Galton and John Antrobus. She plays the mistress with whom Gault is in bed when all his clothes are stolen. He then has to find a way of getting home to his wife without arousing suspicion. Garrick Theatre, WC2 (01-379 6107), previews today and Monday, opens Tuesday.



OPERA

GARDEN PATH: Vladimir Atlantov, probably the best known Russian tenor of the day, makes a belated debut at Covent Garden when he sings the title role in *Otello*, the first time Verdi's opera has been revived here since Domingo appeared in Moshinsky's production at the start of the year. Atlantov's first *Otello* was at a concert performance in Moscow in 1970. Since then he has performed the role over 150 times, including appearances at Vienna, Munich and Verona. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066), Tuesday.



FILMS

DOG'S LIFE: Anton Glazunov and friend in *My Life as a Dog* (PG), an easy-going comedy from the usually stern Swedes. Anton Glazunov, in his first film role, plays an impish 12-year-old growing up with rural relatives in the late 1950s. Directed by Lasse Hallström, *My Life as a Dog* won the prizes for best film and best actor in the 1985 Swedish film awards and has been compared with the late François Truffaut's famous study of childhood, *Les quatre cents coups*. Renol, Russell Square, London WC1 (01-837 8402), from Friday.



DANCE

LYRIC BEAUTY: Merrill Ashley, one of New York City Ballet's leading dancers, appears as guest star with Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. Her role in *The Sleeping Beauty*, which opens the three-week season, gives scope to her renowned virtuosity and the lyricism George Balanchine unexpectedly revealed when he created *Balade* for her. Three Sadler's Wells dancers share the role with her; the first of them, Marion Tait, dances on Thursday. Royal Opera House, London WC2 (01-240 1066), from Wednesday.



CONCERTS

BACH PASSION: Johann Sebastian Bach makes his now customary Easter appearance at the Barbican with a performance, sung in German, of the St Matthew Passion. The English Baroque choir and English Baroque Orchestra are conducted by Neil Mackie and Christus is sung by Michael George, with Lynne Dawson (soprano), Claire Powell (contralto), William Kendall (tenor) and Peter Savidge (bass). Barbican, London EC1 (01-638 8891), Friday, 5-9pm, with interval from 6.30-7pm.



BOOKS

SUNNY JIM: James Callaghan could turn out in the long eye of history to have been the last Labour Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. His memoirs, *Time and Chance* (which are published on Monday by Collins, £15.95), tell about life at the top of the greasy pole in a modern democracy: living with the unions, incomes policy, the winter of discontent, arms control, devolution and the Common Market. The book comes out most carefully upon its hour, as the nation is seized with one of its bouts of election fever.

THEATRE

OPENINGS

LOST IN THE STARS: Old Vic Youth Theatre in the musical by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson, based on Alan Paton's novel of South Africa, *Cry, the Beloved Country*. Directed by Valerie Colgan, musical director Chruce Mallett. Jeannette Cochrane Theatre, Theobalds Road, London WC1 (01-242 7040), Opens Mon. Until Apr 18.

SPOOKHOUSE: "Funny and highly dramatic" play by Harvey Fierstein, author of *Torch Song Trilogy* and *La Cage aux Folles*, set in a Coney Island post-train, about a fortune teller, her delinquent son and a welfare worker. Hampstead Theatre (01-722 9301), Previews from Tuesday. Opens Apr 22.

WILL-AID: Celebratory gala, attended by HRH The Princess Margaret, part of International AIDS Day effort. *Hamlet Traversed*, an 1811 musical comedy, plus stars from Anita Dobson to Antony Sher, alongside ballet companies. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916), Sun only at 7.30pm. £10-£25.

SELECTED

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE: Michael Gambon magnificent in a first-rate production of Arthur Miller's drama of jealousy and betrayal. National Theatre (01-928 2252).

WHAT ABOUT LUV: Marti Caine in amusing musical version of Murray Schisgal's *Luv*. Three ill-matched lovers keep meeting on a New York bridge. Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith (01-741 2311).

ROMEO AND JULIET: Last year's modern dress production from Stratford, with Sean Bean and Niamh Cusack. Barbican Theatre (01-628 3878).

OUT OF TOWN

BELFAST: The Road to Mecca: Athol Fugard's moving story of one South African woman's determined struggle to maintain her individuality and freedom of conscience. Co-production with Mercury Theatre, Colchester, by arrangement with the National Theatre. Lync Players (0232 669660), Opens Wed.

BRISTOL: Woyzeck: Georg Buchner's play, regarded as among Europe's first modern dramas, translated by Peter Tegel, adapted by Tegel and Leon Rubin, directed for the multi-cultural Company Three by Tai Rubins. New Vic (0272 24388), Opens Thurs.

LEATHERHEAD: Forty Years On: McDonald Hodely leads in a new production of Alan Bennett's public school comedy. Directed by Roger Clissold. Thorncliffe (0372 377677), Opens Thurs.

OLDHAM: Wuthering Heights: Emily Brontë's novel, adapted by John Davidson, directed by Paul Elkins. With Kevin McMonagle, Karen Henthorn, Peter Leabourne. Coliseum (061 624 2829), Public dress rehearsal Wed. Opens Thurs.

FILMS

ALMOST YOU (15): Dim romantic comedy from 1984, with *After Hours* star Griffin Dunne as the husband trying to break free from his wife (Brooke Adams). Directed by Adam Brooks. Metro (01-437 0757), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-638 6148), from Friday.

HALF MOON STREET (18): Botched version of Paul Theroux's thriller *Or Slaughter*, with Sigourney Weaver as the classy escort girl involved with a political wheeler-dealer (Michael Caine). Directed by Bob Swaim, who scored such a hit with *La Gaieté*. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-838 6279), Cannon Pantons Street (01-830 0631), from Friday.

BLOOD TIES (18): Realistic Italian thriller, straightforwardly directed by Giacomo Balthio, with Brad Davis as

TELEVISION

OPENINGS

BLUE VELVET (18): Powerful, kinky fantasy from the inimitable David Lynch, in which the placid surface of an American small town is violently ripped apart. With Kyle MacLachlan, Isabella Rossellini. Lumiere (01-836 0691), Screen on the Hill (01-435 2365), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220).

THE VOYAGE HOME - STAR TREK IV (PG): Slick fun with the *Enterprise* team, featuring time travel, bantering dialogue, and an earthing biologist called Gillian. Leonard Nimoy directs. Empire (01-437 1234), Cannon Edwards Road (01-723 5901), Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149), Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636).

COLLEGE (U): Welcome revival of Buster Keaton's delightful comedy, presented with live musical accompaniment. Keaton plays a bookworm student trying to win the heroine's hand. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647), matinee performances only.

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

JACOB EPSTEIN (1880-1959): His supposed error was to paint a full frontal assault on traditional sculptural form and apply it to figures, both male and female, who wore their sexuality proudly like a trophy. This new, major exhibition addresses all aspects of this seminal sculptor's work. Henry Moore Centre for the Study of Sculpture, Leeds City Art Gallery (0532 462495), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until June 21. From Thurs.

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN: This Pop sculptor resurfaces complete with his trademark, crushed car wrecks. Fabian Carlsberg Gallery, 160 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-409 0618), Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1pm, free, until May 16. From Wednesday.

THE SAINSBURY WING: Here are the latest designs, by architects Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown, in the long-running "monstrous carbuncle" gallery extension. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321), Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 10. From Wednesday.

THE UNPAINTED LANDSCAPE: A fascinating group show in which 16 artists, including Long and David Nash, among them, use media other than painting to express sentiments about Scottish landscapes. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Belford Road, Edinburgh (031 556 8921), Mon-Sat 10-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 17. From today.

SELECTED

L.S. LOWRY: A display featuring pictures by Lowry beside those of his teacher Adolphe Vallette, in this first exhibition celebrating the centenary of the painter's birth. City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester (061 236 9422), Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free.

HEINZ-DIETER PIETSCH: New work, a kind of spacious abstraction, by a painter who was once a master of trompe l'oeil. Paton Gallery, 2 Langley Court, London WC2 (01-379 7854), Tues-Sat 11-6pm, free, until May 2.

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE ROOMS OF LOVE: A chance to assess the strange constructed world of innovative, avant-garde even, young French photographer Bernard Fauchon. Early work - late 1970s - includes a curious series of surreal fantasies, while more recent work attempts to suggest the presence of human love by using the detritus of life. All very colourful. Stills Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140) from today until May

TELEVISION

AFTER CHERNOBYL: Almost a year on from the Soviet nuclear disaster, *Horizon* looks at the lessons for Britain. Can it happen here and if it did, how would we cope? BBC2, Mon, 8.05-9pm.

HEDGEHOG WEDDING: First play by Elizabeth Spender (daughter of Sir Stephen) about a posh country wedding disrupted by old tensions. Frederick Treves and Sheila Allen play anxious parents. BBC2, Fri, 9.25-10.25pm.

MOZART PLAYERS: The London Mozart Players play Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* Overture, Prokofiev's Symphony No 1 "Classical" and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5 "Emperor" in which the soloist is John Lill. The conductor is Jane Glover. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.30pm.

DAVIES/BBC SO: A well-mixed selection for Dennis Russell Davies and the BBC SO - Ravel's *La Valse*, Reger's rarely revived *Hinter Variations* and Schoenberg's Piano Concerto with Alfred Brendel as soloist. Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

HOLY WEEK HIGH-JINKS: A sharp contrast from the New London Chamber Choir under James Wood in "A Musical Ceremony for Holy Week" as they juxtapose Gesualdo's *Tenebrae Responsories* for Good Friday with Jonathan Harvey's *Forms of Empathy*. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061), Wed, 7.30pm.

COMPLETE HAT: Fala's complete *Three-Cornered Hat* ballet is performed by the LSO under Gerard Schwarz, as are Fala's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* (Carol Rosenberger, piano), *Chabrier's España* and Ravel's *Bohème*. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

CONCERTS

MACKERRAS/LSO: Smetana's symphonic poem *Vltava*, Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 (soloist, Hideo Udagawa) and Dvorak's Symphony No 9 "New World" are performed by the LSO under Sir Charles Mackerras. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 3795, cc 01-638 8891), Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

MAUNDY MUSIC: In a concert titled "Music for Maundy Thursday" the Hilliard Ensemble sing Ockeghem's *Missae Caput*, Taverner's *Dum Transisset Sabbatum* and Tallis's *Lamentations*. St John's, Thurs, 7.30pm.

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But might not such strong stellar wattage prompt ego wrestling on the set, especially when bickery is built into the dialogue? "She was known all over Copiah County as cheap Christmas trash!" Apparently not. Shooting took place relatively placidly in North Carolina: the ladies enjoyed each other's company, and said pleasant things in interviews. "Jessica and Sissy are solid citizens," Diane Keaton told the waiting world: "you know, they both live in Virginia, on farms. They're not fooling around."

JAZZ

STAN TRACEY: The pianist's trio - which includes his son, Clark, on drums - plays host to another British jazz mini-dynasty, the saxophone-playing Skidmores (piano) and his (Alan). Tonight, Bull's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road, London SW13 (01-876 5241).

JAMES MOODY: Gifted bebop tenorist and flautist who presents his music with a delicious wit. Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

WIRE NIGHT: Concluding the Camden Jazz Week, *Wire* magazine presents the Steve Williamson Quintet, Gail Thompson with a 20-voice choir, and the group of the talented flautist Philip Bent. Tonight, Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 1394).

FILMS ON TV

● Betty Grable in the 1942 film noir, *I Wake Up Screaming* - also known as *Hot Shot* - which is showing today on Channel 4 (11.15pm-12.45am). A fast-moving, unpretentious thriller, reeking with moral decay, it was the outstanding achievement of a normally journeyman director, H. Bruce Humberstone. Joining Grable in a gallery of 1940s icons are Victor Mature, Carole Landis, Elisha Cook Jr and the huge, sinister Laird Cregar.

● Rupert Brooke, the romantically doomed poet who died at 27, is the subject of Katherine Parker's play, *The One Before the Last* (Belle 4, Thurs, 3-4pm). It charts his unlikely affair with a fellow student at Cambridge, Ka Cox, which led to a nervous breakdown and left a permanent emotional scar. Colin Firth, who starred in the television version of J.B. Priestley's *Lost Empires*, plays the poet; Emma Pipher is Ka.

● The ROBE: Famous as the first film in CinemaScope, Lloyd C. Douglas's Biblical epic now comes to the ether in a six-part adaptation by David Buck. With Anton Lesser, Bernard Hepton and Annette Crosbie. Radio 4, tomorrow, 7-8pm.

● A SLIGHT ACHE: Final offering in the Theatre Absurd season, a revival from 1970 of Harold Pinter's dissection of the tensions that cloud a perfect summer day. Beautifully played by Michael Hordern and the late Vivien Merchant. Radio 3, Tues, 7.30-8.30pm.

● REBELS: The latest subject in Hugh Sykes's excellent series is A. S. Neill, the controversial founder of Summerhill, the last word in progressive schools. Former pupils and teachers fill out the portrait. Radio 4, Wed, 7.45-8.15pm.

● THE BRIDGE AT ORBIGO: David Pownall's new play, inspired by a pilgrimage to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The fictional pilgrims include a footballer (Neville Smith) and a referee (Colin Jeavons). Radio 3, Fri, 8.15-9.25pm.

● ATHENS-LONDON-BARCELONA: Two Greek choreographers, Angela Lyras and Denise Perdikides, bring their companies and their works to London for the first time. The Place, Dukes Road, London WC1 (01-387 0331), Tues, Wed.

● LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: High-powered casts take a specially chosen programme to theatres too small for the full company. Roland Petit's dance drama *Carmen* is joined by contrasted new works by Kevin Heggen and Llywelyn Dove. Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds (0284 68503) this afternoon and evening. Theatre Royal, Lincoln (0522 25555) Tues, Wed.

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Southern sisters: (left to right) Diane Keaton, Jessica Lange and Sissy Spacek star in Bruce Beresford's *Crimes of the Heart*

Take three Hollywood girls

It's not as if I were taking three girls off the street and slogging my guts out to try to make the thing work," said the director Bruce Beresford about *Crimes of the Heart*, adapted from Beth Henley's darkly humorous play about three Southern sisters wrestling with their past and present lives. Instead, Beresford took three girls from the Hollywood heights: Diane Keaton, Jessica Lange, Sissy Spacek - gutsy ladies, all bejewelled with Oscars, all with footholds in film production. (Keaton's first directional fling, a documentary about people's idea of heaven, opens in New York on Friday, just when *Crimes* appears here.)

But might not such strong stellar wattage prompt ego wrestling on the set, especially when bickery is built into the dialogue? "She was known all over Copiah County as cheap Christmas trash!" Apparently not. Shooting took place relatively placidly in North Carolina: the ladies enjoyed each other's company, and said pleasant things in interviews. "Jessica and Sissy are solid citizens," Diane Keaton told the waiting world: "you know, they both live in Virginia, on farms. They're not fooling around."

Keaton had first claim on the property: her manager optioned the film rights in 1980 during the play's off-Broadway run, before it scooped up the Pulitzer prize. At first Jonathan Demme was to direct, but the project lay fallow for several years until money from Dino De Laurentiis speeded development. The two other stars were enticed, and made salary concessions to ease the production. Bruce Beresford, the versatile Australian whose range encompasses rude commercial comedy and plangent Americana (*Tender Mercies*), was inked in as director.

Beresford's confident belief that he could avoid undue exertion did not stem entirely from the stars' talents. For Beth Henley's play - her first - is an actress's gift, with its quirky characters, skittish emotions and fruity lines. Keaton plays Lenny, the nervous elder sister with flailing gestures, who never left home and lets the shell of spinsterhood creep round her. Lange is Meg, a gum-chewing, bourbon-sipping failure, clutching the dream of a singing career in Los Angeles. The showiest part, however, belongs to that freckled elf Sissy Spacek, perfectly cast as the moonstruck Babe, who shoots

her husband because, she says, she "didn't like his stinking looks". To compensate, she then offers him a glass of lemonade. The three come together on Lenny's birthday to plan Babe's defence and rake over old coals, from past romances to their mother's suicide.

Henley knows Southern ways and speech from her own childhood in Jackson, Mississippi. She planned an acting career until the success of *Crimes*. Other plays and scripts followed: the film *Nobody's Fool*, featuring Rosanna Arquette and Eric Roberts, is scheduled for British release shortly.

As for Bruce Beresford, he good-humouredly takes everything - comedy, drama, success, catastrophe - in his stride. Returning to America, after the debacle of his biblical flop *King David*, he went about blaming no-one but himself, and regaled crew members with the story of air passengers parachuting to safety whenever the epic was the in-flight movie.

Geoff Brown

Crimes of the heart (15) opens on April 17 at the Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2738).

NEW SADLER'S WELLS

OPERA: Continues its nationwide tour of *Rudolf* with performances of Ian Judge's handsome and witty production of the G&S mock-melodrama. Mon through Sat (not Good Friday) at 7.30pm with a 2.30 matinee on April 18. Demgate, Guildhall Road, Northampton (0604 24811).

RADIO

● Rupert Brooke, the romantically doomed poet who died at 27, is the subject of Katherine Parker's play, *The One Before the Last* (Belle 4, Thurs, 3-4pm). It charts his unlikely affair with a fellow student at Cambridge, Ka Cox, which led to a nervous breakdown and left a permanent emotional scar. Colin Firth, who starred in the television version of J.B. Priestley's *Lost Empires*, plays the poet; Emma Pipher is Ka.

● The ROBE: Famous as the first film in CinemaScope, Lloyd C. Douglas's Biblical epic now comes to the ether in a six-part adaptation by David Buck. With Anton Lesser, Bernard Hepton and Annette Crosbie. Radio 4, tomorrow, 7-8pm.

● A SLIGHT ACHE: Final offering in the Theatre Absurd season, a revival from 1970 of Harold Pinter's dissection of the tensions that cloud a perfect summer day. Beautifully played by Michael Hordern and the late Vivien Merchant. Radio 3, Tues, 7.30-8.30pm.

● REBELS: The latest subject in Hugh Sykes's excellent series is A. S. Neill, the controversial founder of Summerhill, the last word in progressive schools. Former pupils and teachers fill out the portrait. Radio 4, Wed, 7.45-8.15pm.

● THE BRIDGE AT ORBIGO: David Pownall's new play, inspired by a pilgrimage to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The fictional pilgrims include a footballer (Neville Smith) and a referee (Colin Jeavons). Radio 3, Fri, 8.15-9.25pm.

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ROCK

PAUL SIMON: Interest in this tour has been sustained effortlessly on a rising thermal of media hot air following the extraordinary success of the rather average *Graceland*. Predictably similar critical acclaim. Tonight for three nights, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212).

MICHELLE SCHOCKED: American singer/writer of buoyant acoustic folk songs brings a different theme and guest musicians to each of her five performances. Tues for five nights, Drill Hall Arts Centre, London (01-837 8270).

JULIAN COPE: Second week of a four-week tour by the former Teardrop Explodes vocalist. Tonight, Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 824355); tomorrow, Studio, Bristol (0272 276193); Wed, City Hall, Newcastle (091-232 3105).

MICHAEL McDONALD: First UK tour by the former Steely Dan keyboard player who joined the Doobie Brothers in 1976 and wrote most of their new (and some of their best) material. His staid, expressive tenor also replaced high harmonies as the band's trademark. A solo star since the Doobies disbanded in 1982, his more recent successes include "Ya Mo B There" and last year's "On My Own" with Patti LaBelle.

Tonight, Nottingham Royal Centre (0602 472328); tomorrow, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775); Wed and Thurs, London Hammersmith Odeon (01-748 4081).

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL: Postal booking for programme of organ recitals and competitions; plus fringe events with Peter Skellern and Richard Stilwell. Personal/phone booking from April 18. July 3-11, PO Box 80, St Albans, Herts AL3 4HR (0727 42276).

HARVINGTON FESTIVAL: Fifth annual festival includes appearance by Emma Kirby and Anthony Rooley. Performances in churches, and Harvington Hall Gardens. June 19-19. Tickets: Mrs J. Arbutnot, Wood House, Winterford, Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire. (0562 83 532).

BOXHILL MUSIC FESTIVAL: Programme includes 17th-century music for voice and keyboard, harp recital by Iwan Jones, and concerto evening with Instrumental Ensemble led by Keith Gurry. June 5-7. Tickets: Cleveland College, Dorking, Surrey (0306 682117).

SALUTE TO ISRAEL: Booking now open for Israel's 38th Independence Day concert. Philharmonia Orchestra plays Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns, and songs from Israel. May 4. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3119), 01-928 8800 credit cards).

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL: South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3119), 01-928 8800 credit cards).

LAST CHANCE

MERVYN PEAKE: Celebration of writings and drawings of great English illustrator, artist, novelist and poet, with biographical narrative, and samples

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Stumped for an answer

In women's sport, one seeks an innocent long since departed from most men's games. Women tread the sacred turf of Twickenham today, and in June others will tread the even more sacred turf of Lord's in a Test against Australia. The quality of the England team depends on a meeting of the Women's Cricket Association executive tomorrow to decide what should be done about five players who went to South Africa in the winter. Twelve players are already indefinitely banned for the same offence: to be consistent more bans should be handed out. But the latest five include England's main strike bowler, Avril Garding, and opening batswoman Leary. Some of the five say they went to South Africa only for a holiday and did not play, and Cathy Mowatt, chairman of the WCA, has said she will take their word for it. But inevitably the game is rife with suspicion and rumour. Whatever the WCA's decision, there will be trouble. Meanwhile it has money worries — only £3,500 in the kitty, a £40,000 bill in due course for the cost of staging the tour and loss of its sponsor, Unilever. So far it has not found another, but here is a suggestion, for which I am indebted to the Central Council for Physical Recreation, funded principally by the Sports Council. It produces a useful volume called *The International Team Managers Handbook*, sponsored, believe it or not, by Cape Fruit.

Asian swing

I hear that Ian Botham might be going to Hong Kong to play cricket next winter. The all-rounders' competition called the Silk Cut Challenge never quite took off in England, after being held at Taunton last year. But in Hong Kong last year it went down pretty well. Botham was pummeling the Aussies at the time, but he has no game for Queensland over the weekend of the competition next time around. Local organizers are licking their lips at the thought of luring the Mighty One over for a weekend of copious scoring.

Et tu, Jeeves?

The Hongkong Bank Group rugby club is in the middle of its centenary year. In its time it has produced a number of international players, but its most famous player by far was P.G. Woodhouse, renowned as one of the least enthusiastic bankers in Hong Kong and Shankers' history. But he always loved rugby.

● Get ready for live rugby union matches on Saturday afternoons next season. The BBC and the Rugby Union are involved in negotiations and the end of the much-hated *Rugby Special* programme could be in sight.

Mac-packing

Saddest sight of the week: a big launch for the natty new range of country clothes called Equorian, to be sold in aid of the British equestrian team's Olympic Fund. The venue was a sodden and deserted Badminton, but with Ian Stark and the ever-woracious Ginny Leng bravely smiling through it.

Far-flung fame

A few years earlier it had been the Americans' turn to feel superior when a specialist in bug detection was crawling through a wide vent which ran under the room in the British embassy containing the GCHQ cypher machines. He saw a tube being pushed slowly through a hole which had been bored through the vent, slapped a monkey-wrench round it, and cut off the head of the tube with a hacksaw while an unseen Russian at the other end was trying to pull it back.

Matchless

The charm of sport is its simplicity. It is not, therefore, an extract from the *MIPTC* Newsletter, organ of the Men's International Professional Tennis Council, the people who run the men's grand prix circuit. "The MIPTC has interpreted Article V C of the *Code* (page 153) to authorise both 'followed by' and 'not before' scheduling of matches or a mixture of both 'followed by' and 'not before' scheduling of matches. Consequently, the scheduling committee consisting of the Tournament Director, Referee, Supervisor and Player Representative will have those options. [See Article IV D 6 d of the *Tournament Regulations* (page 48)]. They can't be serious!"



Barry Fantoni
Fourth floor: Let's assume, inquiries, DTT investigations...

Karl Popper, at 84, establishes a link between science and nature and the role of nuclear weapons in keeping the peace

Why the West must hang on to the bomb

believes that if his country disarms this would be a great victory for peace and, more especially, it would make his country safe from atom bombs. But not so: it would create the greatest and most dangerous international crisis since World War II, since it would upset the balance of power between the Soviet Union and the United States.

For the European democracies which still adhere to the Nato pact it would create huge problems; the US would view it, not only as a British betrayal, but as a sudden accretion of Soviet power — in effect as a tremendous Soviet victory. It follows that another world war might then develop: politicians on both sides would find themselves unable to deal with the new and dangerous situation.

If, on the other hand, all the western democracies decided at the same time to disarm, the Soviets would be faced with a very unstable and volatile situation — one which would demand immediate military action in order not to allow it to reverse. That would give them the excuse to proceed at once unconditionally to dismantle the whole nuclear arsenal.

The average unilateralist be-

Just as I claim to be a better pacifist than most of the members of the peace movement, I also claim to be a better ecologist than most of the members of the Green movement. I greatly prefer nature to technology, especially to a technology that produces poisonous fumes, or an industry that propagates tobacco smoking. I am all for nature, and for conservation.

But I am also for science. It is the ideological hostility to science which I find utterly objectionable, from the point of view of the important task of conserving and preserving nature. No doubt science and technology have been misused by us, but they have also helped us to repair the damage: science and technologies based upon science have saved some of our greatest lakes, such as Lake Michigan in America and Lake Zurich in Switzerland. It is only science and technology that can help us to establish a balance with nature.

But it is also clear that neither science nor technology can lead the way. Only people of good judgment can do so: science and technology provide the means. The way has to be chosen; and the choice cannot be based on scientific authority. Moreover, there

will always be several possible ways; and those who claim to know the only way are suspect.

Nor will it do to demand, in a tone of intellectual arrogance, more modesty from the scientists and technologists, and more foresight of dangers. There are many dangers. But the most dangerous are the leaders who wish to control the technologists even at the price of democracy telling us that freedom will later re-emerge.

The circumstances in which we in the West live are the best that have so far existed. Not only have there never been fewer people who are hungry or without shelter or medical care, but there are opportunities, both material and spiritual, for all who care to take them. I believe that we live in a wonderful world, and that much-maligned science, technology, and even industry, should be thanked for what they have done for us. Our society is the justest that has ever existed. Of course, there is still much wrong with our society. But it is one most eager for reform.

Its greatest evil is the band of self-appointed high priests who preach that we are living in Hell. This religion is now almost universally accepted; and it is of course sincerely believed by those high priests of the so-called media. As a consequence there are many believers, especially young people, who are made unhappy by the incessant propaganda which really believe that we are living in a bad, unjust society, and who are deeply suffering as a result of this almost universal belief.

However, truth may slowly win; and it may penetrate the skulls even of our intellectual leaders that they have made a mistake, and that we can be and ought to be happy and grateful, and work on the further improvement of our beautiful planet.

Sir Karl Popper was formerly Professor of Logic and Scientific Method at London University. This article is extracted from a lecture which he gave in Austria this week.

Chapman Pincher eavesdrops on the US-Soviet espionage row

Bugs that cannot be beaten

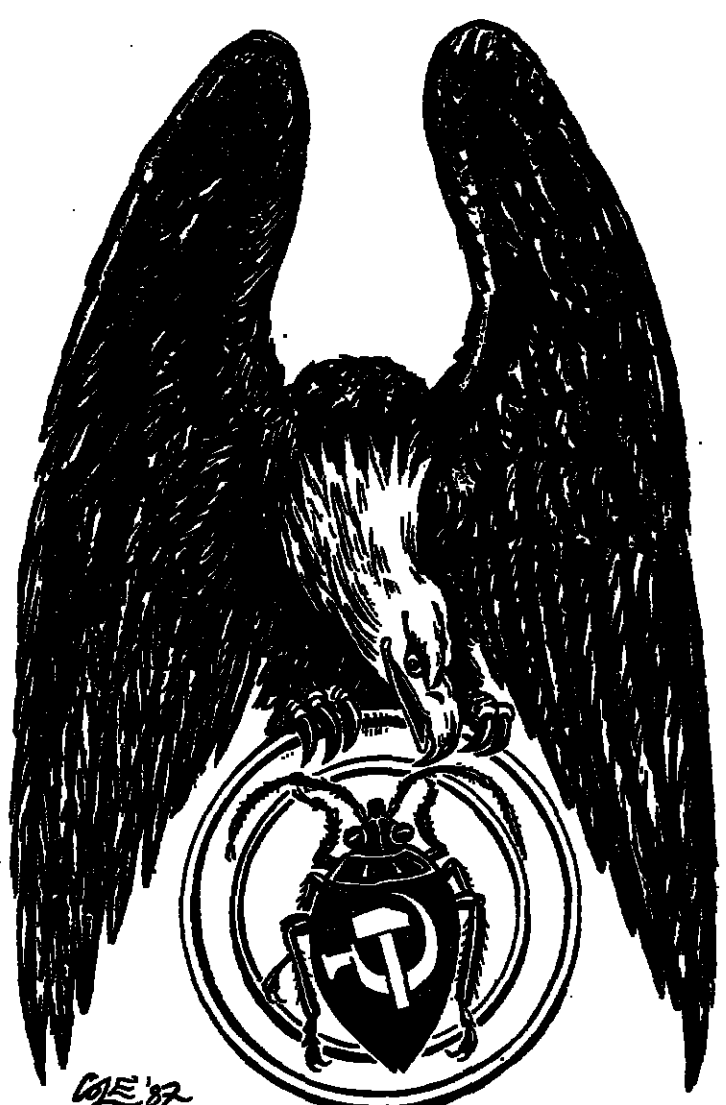
When any prime minister visiting the British embassy in Moscow wishes to talk to the ambassador in absolute secrecy, the only place to do so with reasonable certainty is inside an electronically screened wire cage cantilevered out from the walls of the basement. The existing US embassy has a similar facility, known as The Bubble. But even that can no longer be trusted, and the Secretary of State, George Shultz, may have to resort to a caravan or walks in the park to avoid being bugged when he visits the Soviet capital next week.

The new US embassy, built by Soviet workmen under KGB control, has so many eavesdropping devices incorporated in bricks, concrete, girders and metal frames that, once occupied, the whole building would be one big ear for the Kremlin. The Russians have overdone it, but the degree of American anger may be somewhat feigned because the Soviet bugging of all Western embassies in East bloc countries has long been accepted as inevitable.

In 1978, when fire destroyed part of the American Embassy, a chimney on an adjacent building was exposed: removal of a few bricks disclosed an eavesdropping aerial which could be raised and lowered by a pulley. An American security man lowered himself down the chimney on a rope and discovered a small room with monitoring equipment. With a torch in his hand he crawled along a tunnel and saw a Russian, also with a torch, coming towards him. To avoid an incident, both men retreated.

A few years earlier it had been the Americans' turn to feel superior when a specialist in bug detection was crawling through a wide vent which ran under the room in the British embassy containing the GCHQ cypher machines. He saw a tube being pushed slowly through a hole which had been bored through the vent, slapped a monkey-wrench round it, and cut off the head of the tube with a hacksaw while an unseen Russian at the other end was trying to pull it back.

One of the most impressive Soviet espionage techniques was a microfilm which worked for ever without wires or batteries, being energized from a long distance by microwaves. They managed to hide one of these inside a wooden plaque ceremonially presented to the US ambassador, who hung it above his desk. But they have achieved even more spectacular success by exploiting an ancient art which is also



permanently operative, easily energized, and requires no constant technological refinement — sexual seduction.

Most major Western countries have employed large numbers of Russians in their Moscow embassies and residences as ancillary staff because it is so much cheaper than importing their own nationals. Inevitably, the KGB infiltrates trained agents into these posts. Some are prostitutes, both female and male. Their task is to seduce anyone who might be blackmailed into providing information or access to the most secret parts of the embassies.

The British and Canadians have a bad record of susceptibility to such sexual entrapment. The naval spy John Vassall was compromised homosexually while serving in Moscow. A Canadian security guard with a reputation as a "stud" was tricked into an illegal secret marriage with a particularly attractive KGB prostitute, and

blackmailed into providing codebooks and planting bugs.

The Americans, who use tough Marine Corps guards to protect their embassies, believed themselves immune to such temptation, and were particularly censorious when a British ambassador disgraced himself by falling for the wiles of his wife's Russian maid and was photographed in the process. Now they are embroiled in the worst-ever "honey-trap" scandal involving the very Marine guards in whom they have placed such trust. In exchange for sex with alluring embassy employees, the guards allowed KGB specialists to prowling round the most secret areas night after night, examining communications systems, codes and planting bugs.

The pride of the CIA and the FBI, who also consider themselves as almost immune to the type of traitor which has infested their British equivalents, MI6 and MI5, has been badly punctured. The

former FBI chief, J. Edgar Hoover, held MI5 in contempt after the exposure of Anthony Blunt and the suspicious regarding his MI5 counterpart, Sir Roger Hollis. Recently, it was Mr. Hoover's turn to smile when the FBI was forced to admit that for 10 years Hoover had been completely fooled by a KGB agent posing as a defector. This man, code-named Fedora, had fed the FBI a mass of misinformation of which Hoover was so proud that he channelled much of straight to the White House. In return, to keep Fedora's cover going, he induced the CIA to give him many genuine secrets for his KGB masters. Fedora is now back in the Soviet Union.

Treachery, which was complacently regarded in Washington as a British disease, has hit the US so hard that in the last three years 26 American citizens have been convicted of serious espionage. Two were members of the CIA, while a former CIA man, Edward Howard, escaped to Moscow after betraying at least one valuable Russian informant to his death. The FBI's record has been blemished by Richard Miller, described as a bumbling inspector, Clausewitz figure, who sold secrets to a Russian, ennobled, infiltrated into the US as an immigrant.

The US Navy's reputation has been even more severely blighted. Over a period of 15 years John Walker, a former sailor, provided the Russians with code cards and information about code machines enabling them to read many of the secret messages passing between American warships. He dropped them by the sackful for Russian agents to pick up and was caught only when his shockingly treated wife betrayed him.

The spate of spies has hit the Americans so hard that they are becoming masochists about it. A congressional report on US security, just issued, says: "It is a sad fact that the preponderance of recent espionage cases has hinged on the greed of Americans willing to betray their country's secrets." That mirrors a statement in a KGB manual that Americans can easily be bought.

It is only human to enjoy some *Schadenfreude* over the American predicament, especially after Congress's hollering attack on the discovery that GCHQ spy Geoffrey Prime had betrayed secrets enabling the Russians to feed false information into US reconnaissance satellites. But we should remember that we are on the same side against a resolute and ingenious opponent, and that it does not pay to gloat in the unceasing battle of intelligence wits.

the needle-exchange scheme. Chief constables in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee, the Scottish cities involved, have been given guidance by the Lord Advocate, Scotland's principal law officer. He has emphasized that police should confiscate needles from suspected drugs abusers only when they contemplate bringing a drugs offence charge.

An appeal for police sensitivity came on Thursday from Douglas Hogg, the Home Office Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, speaking at the Association of Chief Police Officers' national drugs conference in Preston. On the subject of Aids, he said: "A recognition of the wider social and health problems associated with drug misuse is essential if we are to tackle the problem."

Dr Robertson believes that, painful as it might be, a lessening of some controls is necessary. Drug users need to be drawn into society, not pushed out."

Thompson Prentice

Science correspondent

Michael Kinsley

Flower power fighting on

Washington

The most popular thing the US Congress has done in months, possibly years, was to raise the federal maximum speed limit on most American motorways from 55 to 65 miles per hour. The vote was taken on April 1, as part of a highway bill, and within hours state governors were posing for photographers in front of shiny new signs proclaiming the higher limit.

Imposed during the 1973 oil crisis, the 55 mph rule was especially offensive to many conservatives, who regarded it as a matter of principle. Two principles, actually: burdensome government versus human freedom and states' rights versus the federal government. In Washington, raising the limit has long been part of the Republican party platform and has been repeatedly and enthusiastically endorsed by President Reagan.

The highway bill passed, in fact, over Reagan's veto. He thought it included wasteful projects, but he supported the speed-limit change. Indeed, Reaganites accused the Democrats of holding this popular item hostage to protect their less attractive "pork barrel" construction projects.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration pursues another popular campaign, to force states to raise the minimum drinking age to 21. This is for the avowed purpose of greater highway safety. There is no trifle about states' rights here. Using the same mechanism that enforces the speed limit — withholding federal highway funds — a 1984 law gave states until last September 30 to outlaw teenage drinking. Forty-two met the deadline, in a dramatic reversal of the previous decade's trend toward lower drinking ages.

The best estimate is that raising the speed limit will lead to about 700 more accident deaths a year, plus injuries. That does not mean it should not be done. Although no one would sacrifice those 700 lives if we knew in advance those they were, the social trade-off of anonymous human lives for human freedom, or even mere human convenience, is an inevitable part of life. If you doubt that, why not lower the speed limit to 45 or 35 mph? Or even 25? That would save still more lives.

Most Americans have decided that shaving a few minutes off a journey is worth the risk, and they have a point. Indeed in Britain and other European, who routinely ignore speed limits of 70 mph or higher, it must seem crazy that anyone would restrict drivers to 55, or even 65, in America's wide-open spaces.

But what, then, of the trade-off in the case of teenage drinking? The best studies suggest that raising the drinking age will reduce fatalities among drivers aged between 18 and 20 by about 360 a year. There is no evidence that banning drink for 18-year-olds has any effect on drinking by younger teens, as some have argued. And there is good evidence that raising the drinking age actually increases highway deaths among people in their early twen-

ties. A certain type, it appears, is going to kill himself whenever he starts drinking.

So, raising the speed limit will cost at least twice as many lives as raising the drinking age will save. You might argue that teenage lives are more precious. But the only reason this particular social trade-off is so popular is that in one case the burden is being imposed only on a small minority.

There was no one in Washington ever a teenager? It's absurd to expect people not to let alcohol pass their lips in university, and even more absurd if they are already working or serving in the armed forces. The vast majority of teenagers do not drink and drive. Nor do they drink to excess. (Or if they do once or twice, so what?) Yet they are being denied, or at least there is an attempt to deny them, one of the pleasures of life — a pleasure which adults would never deny themselves. That is their enforced contribution toward a social goal for which adults won't even donate a few extra minutes of driving time.

All across the American policy landscape these days we see the spectacle of grown-ups alarmed that teenagers might be enjoying themselves too much — drinking, using drugs, listening to pop music, indulging in sex. Other issues are more genuinely difficult than the drinking-age question. Yet why is it that every politician in need of an easy issue dreams up some new prohibition for adults to impose on youngsters? If it's not some conservative demanding high-school drug tests, it's some liberal wanting to bring back national service.

Teenage sex has become a national obsession. Or, rather, it has risen out of the national subconscious to become a political obsession. The unattractive relish with which some people have seized on Aids as a reason to crusade for chastity suggests that they might be secretly disappointed if a cure were found tomorrow.

It's almost as if there is an element of vengeance here. Vengeance for what? Among older people, perhaps, vengeance for the 1960s. Among many of today's parents, who were teenagers in the '60s, vengeance for being young while they are young no longer. Today's middle-aged, the product of the postwar baby boom, are so numerous that, electorally, they can push the other generations around. Two decades ago they terrorized their elders. Now they terrorize the young.

A senator's wife named Tipper Gore leads a group that is trying to spread alarm about rock lyrics. The examples she has published are grotesque, all right, but they strike me as an almost pathetic attempt to shock a generation of parents who were old hands at the disgust-the-ol-folks game before these pups were even born.

Of course, no one wants to deny today's teenagers the opportunity for good, clean fun. But why should they have to settle for good, clean fun? We didn't.

© Times Newspapers, 1987
The author is editor of New Republic.

Basil Boothroyd

Respondez, SDP

Dear Dr Owen,

Thank you for your nice long letter. Four terrifically typed pages and, of course, the PS inseparable from all direct mail shots.

It's no business of mine to tell you how to win the election, but I do think you make a mistake in putting "Opinions Questionnaire Enclosed" on your envelope. This puts people off opening it. They are used to being told that £50,000 is waiting for them inside, or a matching pair of his 'n' her Ferraris. Then they always have the bit, "All you have to do..." which sounds nice and simple, compared with bucking down to questions about AI for or against "better pay for teachers and more money for schools measuring up to established criteria of pupil performance."

Never mind having to circle one number in the pink column and one number in the grey column to show whether I would rather have lower taxes and more crime than increased prosperity and less nuclear energy.

But I may have got my issues a little confused over that. It isn't difficult with a questionnaire on this broad scale. Your questions A to P, for instance, get me mixed up about whether I'm against H, which is just sub-titled "The environment", and/or for O, "Secrecy and unfairness in the way the government works." You even leave me to guess which government you are talking about. I think this is sloppy.

Also, you haven't really coordinated your requests for my money. Your PS on the letter says "Please send your cheque for £25, £15, £5 or whatever you can afford"; whereas your questionnaire, which is separate and in more colours, including pink and grey for circling, ends up, "Enclosed is my cheque for £50, £25, etc with boxes to tick. I mean, make your mind up, if that doesn't sound rude. Are you trying for the £50 bracket or are you not?"

In fairness, I must admit there is a last box to tick: "No, I do not wish to make a contribution at this time, but I am returning my questionnaire."

There again, though I want to help you with honest answers, I see no way of handling this. Where is the provision for me to say that I do not wish to contribute at this time and I am not returning my questionnaire? Not that there would be a lot of point in that, because you would never know that I did not wish to contribute at this time. Unless I wrote you a letter instead, like this, just with no cheque in it, however much you kept looking in the envelope and shaking it.

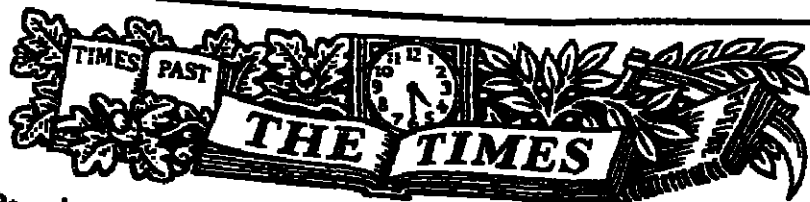
In that case, should I still be covered, as a non-opinion-holder, by your bit at the top of the non-return questionnaire, printed in red and slightly off line, saying, "Your reply will be held in strict confidence?"

So that's a question for you to answer, and you might also let me know at this time (or "now", as some of us blunty put it), where you got my name and address from — though I do congratulate you on getting it right.

My last offer of his 'n' her Ferraris called me Mr Boothroyd, with the label stuck on cock-eyed, and enclosed a catalogue of ladies' spring fashions. Still, at least it wasn't seeking my views on cancelling Trident, reducing unemployment, maintaining existing tax levels, involving more parents with education, co-operating with our European partners to increase prosperity and introducing early legislation banning junk mail.

That's one of my own ideas, that last bit. You do ask for them, after all. Though I think you're thick paragraph cheekily headed, "Can your conscience be bought by a cheap bribe?" is getting a bit too personal. It can't, I have to say. An expensive bribe would be something else, but I don't see it offered anywhere in your nice long letter, or the accompanying full-colour brain-boggler.

Yours sincerely,
Basil Boothroyd
PS: I haven't had a word of a questionnaire out of Mrs Thatcher or Mr Kinnock. Or even Mr Steel, let alone Mr Steel, let alone Mr Steel.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

THE GORBACHOV DOCTRINE

As international attention focuses on relations between the superpowers and the prospects for an arms control agreement in advance of Mr George Shultz's arrival in Moscow on Monday, those aspects of the Soviet leader's speech in Prague yesterday which did not deal with arms control are likely to be neglected. They do not deserve to be.

Addressing an audience of Czechoslovak officials — an audience which might have been inclined to see change in Moscow as a threat to their interests — Mr Gorbachov set out some of the principles which should, in his view, govern Soviet relations with its East European allies in future. For the people of Czechoslovakia, whose own attempts at national political and economic reform fell victim to the "Brezhnev doctrine", his words may well have spelled hope that the tragic events of August 1968 would not be repeated.

The "Brezhnev doctrine" was coined, it should be remembered, for the exclusive purpose of crushing a popular movement towards democracy in Czechoslovakia. It stated that a threat to the socialist system in one Warsaw Pact country is deemed to constitute a threat to the security of the bloc as a whole. This was the rationale which brought the Soviet tanks to Prague; this was the reasoning which halted Alexander Dubcek's experiment to give socialism "a human face".

The result has been nearly 20 years of socialism by the Brezhnev rule-book; a grey form of socialism in which

theory and economics come first and individuals and their needs second. But Czechoslovakia has not, despite much wishful thinking in the West, been an outright economic failure. Czechoslovakia is one of the few East European countries to have a sound industrial base. It has had no debt crisis.

Czechoslovakia's failure has been elsewhere: in the area of human aspirations and individual needs. Its creative and cultural life was driven underground. There were small hints of independence: letters in the party press protesting about the deployment of additional Soviet missiles in Czechoslovakia in 1983, a growing environmental movement. The spirit of 1968 was not dead, but in hibernation. This week's letter to Mr Gorbachov from members of the 1968 Central Committee has confirmed it.

What the Soviet leader said in Prague yesterday altered some of the ground rules for Moscow's relations with its allies. Mr Gorbachov established that the Kremlin does not expect Soviet solutions to be universally applicable. He rejected, in effect, the idea of an immutable Soviet "model" of socialism. He played down the internationalist aspect of Soviet-style socialism and said that help and support (loaded words in the Soviet canon) should be a two-way, rather than a one-way process.

Mr Gorbachov's words should not have been entirely unexpected. They conform to the pattern that the Soviet leadership has set at home where the borders of the

permissible have been moved. But they have been moved with a purpose: to improve the performance of the socialist system. The borders themselves, though wider, are now more strongly fortified. The penalties for non-conformity and failure are greater.

Mr Gorbachov has applied a similar approach to Soviet relations with Western communist parties, where the rule is now unity — and strength — in diversity. But to establish similar theoretical rules for the countries of Eastern Europe is a move away from the past. To repeat in Prague the doctrine — already stated in Moscow — that no one country has a monopoly on the truth offers a chance for the Czechoslovak leaders to pick up, if they dare, where their predecessors left off in 1968.

Whether Mr Gorbachov's more generous interpretation of socialist truth means that there can be no repetition of 1968, however, is another matter. The ground rules have been adjusted. The leeway is greater, but so are the risks. The price for greater freedom of manoeuvre is making the system work.

If it does not work, even under the new conditions, what then? Then, as Mr Gorbachov told his audience yesterday, the common interest — i.e. the interest of the alliance — is paramount. The future of socialism and the security of Eastern Europe (as interpreted by Moscow) still come before the greater happiness of their people. The spectre of 1968 has not yet been exorcised.

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

The incipient quarrel between the British and American governments over British Airways' spring promotional fares across the Atlantic is symptomatic of the complexities that British and European competitors are bound to find so long as the internal European air fares market remains so constricted. It also shows that even a US Administration formally dedicated to freedom in fixing air fares is inclined to use its powers to help protect domestic interests. In both ways it is the traveller who suffers.

The immediate point at issue is an attempt by British Airways to promote travel to Europe during the slack pre-holiday season. It wants to woo back American travellers who were put off by the bad publicity of 1986 and are now suffering from the fall in the value of the dollar. BA planned, in effect, to give free onward flights to other European destinations to those flying by British Airways to Heathrow.

The promotion is designed on a similar basis to US carriers' offers of free or heavily discounted internal flights within the United States to those flying from Europe. In theory, however, it is different. Air fares within the US mainland are completely deregulated (at least for US airlines). So cheap flights to any US destination may be offered without discounting the basic London to New York tariff.

British Airways, however, must still stick to the many fixed full fares between European countries. It therefore has to present its promotion as a heavy discount on the transatlantic fare.

But British Airways' competitors on both sides of the Atlantic were upset. European state carriers are still dedicated to the cartel of agreed fixed fares and to sharing routes and revenues, despite the European Commission's efforts to secure some limited increase in competition. They also fear the power of British Airways' unrivalled route network and the advantages to British Airways on the transatlantic route of having its base for both Atlantic and continental flights at London's Heathrow.

The chief American rivals feared they could not match this promotion within Europe and could lose traffic to British Airways. They judiciously forgot that European carriers are at an even greater disadvantage within the United States, where they lack comparable internal networks. Despite its avowed self-denial in fixing air fares, the American government has bowed to domestic pressure.

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Inevitably, in the labyrinthine politics of international air fares, things became more complex than this. The US Department of Transportation objected to CAA disapproval of some specialized American discount offers. Britain has now continued the tit-for-tat battle by rejecting American discounts which involve additional flights outside the US mainland.

This atmosphere of instinctive protectionism, however, leaves European carriers with one special underlying problem. The huge deregulated US internal air market gives its international airlines a power to compete that is denied to European airlines which have no big national market. The US does not regard the EEC as equivalent to a nation. Flights within the EEC are not regarded as domestic. In any case, they are still heavily regulated.

The present Anglo-American tiff will cost many would-be travellers the opportunity to take flights that will otherwise run half-empty. It will pass. The longer term message is surely to European governments still obsessed with protecting their national interests within the European air travel market.

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Britain has striven in vain to establish a free market within Europe. The refusal of most other EEC governments to allow a competitive Common Market in the air now penalizes the public through unnecessarily high air fares outside the Community as well as within it — and damages European airlines in the wider world market in the process.

FOURTH LEADER

They order this matter better in France: or, if not better, at least more originally. France, like most countries, has a law which commands motorists to wear seat-belts; as in most countries, the law is often ignored. Fines for offenders have had little effect, so the policy has been abruptly and sensationally amended.

Now, when a policeman sees a motorist who has fastened his belt, he flags the car down and asks for the driver's name and address. Just as the law-abiding citizen is drawing breath for a sentence beginning "Name of a pipe" or "Sacred blue", the policeman explains that the name and address are being taken so that they can be entered in a draw; the winners get a prize of 250 francs which, with a characteristically Gallic sense of symmetry, is exactly the sum that offenders are liable to pay by way of fine.

It has often been remarked that virtue is its own reward; the cynical have as often

replied that it had better be because, nobody else is going to reward it. But what say the cynical now? They say, presumably, that motorists will spend all day driving back and forth through the checkpoints, amassing so many entries in the Lucky Dip that they will be bound to win.

There's no pleasing some folk. But most reasonable people will welcome the French initiative, and will wish to see it introduced in Britain, and indeed considerably extended. The general view of the taxman, for instance, would be dramatically transformed if, at the end of the financial year, he were to slip a tenner or two into his next communication with those upright citizens who had conscientiously declared every penny of their income.

And that would be only the beginning. It will be a happy day when the traffic wardens tuck under the windscreen-wipers of motorists who have never parked on a yellow line

not a fixed-penalty ticket but a voucher worth £5 at any garage.

It will be a happier one when those whose tachygraphs make clear that they have never exceeded the speed-limit are justly awarded a free trip on Concorde. And happy indeed will be the day when any motorist who can prove that his breath has never even tinged the crystals in the bag is presented with a case of the finest champagne.

Why stop there? Millions of our people have never committed burglary, grievous bodily harm, blackmail, loitering with intent, or even murder: surely they should get something for their forbearance? The aim should be a nation prosperous from eschewing crime, in which the villains (few, by the time the scheme has properly caught on) can be instantly identified by their shabby clothes, gaunt faces and requests for the price of a cup of tea. *Merci beaucoup.*

Kent police action on lost ferry

From the Chief Constable of Kent
Sir, It was with deep concern that I read the article, "This needless agony", by Sandra Lawrence (Spectrum, April 8) referring to the plight of the relatives of two of those on board the Herald of Free Enterprise in their quest for information following the tragedy.

The article paints a picture at odds with the reality of the Kent Police response. The timing of the article, raising concern about the competence of the identification procedures, seems particularly inappropriate as it is likely to cause distress to those awaiting the identification of the bodies of loved ones which have been recovered.

The author's emotional involvement is not the best starting point for objective analysis and it is a pity that she did not choose to discuss the police role prior to publication. I would like to make the following observations:

Kent Police, on learning of the tragedy, immediately identified the need for a source of public information on this side of the Channel and a casualty bureau was rapidly established in the full knowledge of the impossibility of fulfilling public demand for information in such a chaotic situation.

The bureau is a well planned, tried and tested system with trained staff but it cannot, of course, provide information when none is available, and the enormity of its task could only be appreciated by those who saw its staff in action.

Within five hours of the disaster 1,000 calls had been received from the public and 7,400 missing person reports were taken in the first 48 hours by a total of some 200 staff working 12-hour shifts.

The working relationship with the Belgian authorities has been excellent throughout the incident and two Kent officers were immediately despatched to Zeebrugge to liaise with the authorities, whose task it was to

co-ordinate the rescue. Further officers, including a superintendent, soon supplemented this effort with a senior officer from the West Yorkshire police, whose experience during the Bradford fire provided the most up-to-date expertise.

The policy of giving what information there was only to immediate relatives was proven correct by experience. Sadly and extraordinarily, the system was further burdened by bogus and obscene calls and even journalists testing response times! You will also be aware of the instances of attempted fraud and of prosecutions which have followed which required officers to be constantly on the alert.

As to the failure to identify the author's friend from her wristwatch, it is impossible to comment in the absence of knowing her identity and more about the case. However, the Belgian authorities who shouldered the onerous responsibility for identification in Zeebrugge were faced with a massively difficult task and some delays were understandable.

The painstaking efforts of the Kent Police Casualty Bureau ultimately imposed order on the terribly confused information picture. Many people were desperate for news and the fortitude and patience of anxious relatives and helpers alike were tested to breaking point and sometimes beyond. It has been reassuring to receive many messages of appreciation and thanks from a variety of sources for the work carried out by my officers in this harrowing situation. They join me in a sincere expression of sympathy to all those affected by this tragedy.

Finally, in common with all the emergency services, there will be a review of procedures to learn from this terrible disaster.
FRANK JORDAN,
Chief Constable of Kent,
Police Headquarters,
Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent, April 9.

Conditions in zoos

From Miss Virginia McKenna
Sir, With reference to the article in *The Times* (April 1, later editions), "Children's zoo was 'animal Belsen'", I understand from the Clacton-on-Sea District Council that the surviving animals in the Martello Tower zoo have all been sold. In fact, the zoo was closed, having been refused a licence renewal by the leisure department, which controls the lease of the Martello Tower.

The "dispensation" afforded the zoo under the 1980 Zoo Licensing Act (due to the fact that it was a small collection) must, in the light of the appalling conditions discovered by the RSPCA inspector, cause questions to be asked.

Should not small zoos, holding rare species of animals, require at the very least the same standard of animal welfare as larger collections?

Furthermore, should zoos that close during the winter months, for whatever reason, not be regularly inspected to ensure that the minimum acceptable standards of animal welfare are maintained at all times?

Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA MCKENNA,
Director, Zoo Check Ltd,
Cherry Tree Cottage,
Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey.

Greek in decline

From Lord Lloyd of Hampstead, QC
Sir, The recent correspondence in your columns on the decline of the teaching of the classical languages has concentrated mainly on Latin, though it is generally recognised that Greek has suffered even more.

The two letters from Sir Steven Runciman (March 27) and Mr Robey (April 2) announcing the proposed abolition of the Oxford Chair of Byzantine and Modern Greek is yet a further blow in that direction. For not only has the Greek language shared with Latin a unique role in the development of our Western civilisation, but it possesses the further feature (unlike Latin) of providing a continuous linguistic link between the literature and speech of the classical world and that of the present day.

Modern Greek is therefore a significant part of our western heritage as well as being an important language in its own right (it is of course now one of the official languages of the Common Market). It is sad indeed to see this further evidence of our inability to preserve that heritage, as also to come to terms with the pressing need to recognise the value of language skills in the modern world.

Yours faithfully,
LLOYD OF HAMPSTEAD,
House of Lords.

Price of legal aid

From Mr Quintin Barry
Sir, Your leading article of March 27 failed to recognise that a second-class system for the legally aided is not only an inevitable consequence of the proposals; it is what the Government actually wants.

Understandably indifferent to private legal costs in a free market economy, and presumably believing that extremely high incomes for a handful of city lawyers are a reward for enterprise, the Government embarked on a review of the legal aid system by means of a "scrutiny" conducted by non-lawyers in a ridiculously short period with a brief to cut costs, but which wholly failed to examine the effect on those firms providing

Archbishop's views

From Mr Sydney Shenton
Sir, Whilst probably one of many who found the Archbishop of Canterbury's answers to Bernard Levin's perceptive and searching questions (March 30) both thought-provoking and constructive, it was no surprise to see a chorus of criticism in your correspondence columns (April 2).

To enter honestly and sympathetically into any discussion of morality, ethics, or religious beliefs these days is to walk into a minefield, whatever the status of the participant or however well qualified.

The concept that a part of God lies within each one of us appears also to have sponsored the belief that each individual has his own unique and authoritative insight into such matters. Dr Runcie's suggestions that we need to cultivate a sense of wonder, that morality needs vision, and that we should seek the truth without equivocation seem worthy objectives. All of a piece with words from the Psalmist from our ancient roots that God is a spirit and we must worship him both in spirit and in truth.

All in all, a noteworthy interview and surely sufficient to give incentive to quiet consideration of these things, with priority to thought and reflection rather than addition to the surfeit of declarations.

Sincerely,
SYDNEY SHENTON,
95 The Crescent,
Davenport,
Stockport,
Cheshire,
April 2.

Beauty of Bath

From Mr R. Hawdon
Sir, May I endorse and extend Chris Patten's argument (April 2) concerning Bath's traffic problems? This issue not only constitutes a threat to the city's fine buildings, as Mr Patten outlined, but to the very fabric of commercial and social life within the community itself.

In my recent capacity as Director of the Theatre Royal, Bath, which has to accommodate well over 1,000 visitors a day to either performances, the box office or the various restaurants within the building, a great deal of my time was taken up with the problems of traffic flow, parking and coach stops around the theatre, as is that of my successors.

Theatre staff have to deal with a constant flow of complaints from visitors who are late for a show having become trapped within our misadvised traffic systems: irate tourists whose taxi drivers have refused to drop them at the front of the theatre because they are then forced to drive right back into the worst bottleneck in the city

centre: coach drivers who are obliged to drop their parties far from their destination, and so on. This problem is common to nearly all establishments within Bath which are trying to cater for the constant flow of tourists and out-of-town visitors to this unique place, and yet it is not insoluble.

There are many methods of tackling such issues — out-of-town car parks, park-and-ride, pedestrianisation of the city centre, redesigned traffic-flow systems — as has been demonstrated in other towns. But it can only be done by the people who live here and who have day-to-day experience of the conditions, not by officials residing in Bristol or elsewhere who have neither the immediate contact with the problems, nor the incentive to correct them.

I agree totally with Chris Patten — give control back to the city council.
Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HAWDON,
Summerhill House,
20 Bathwick Hill,
Bath, Avon,
April 2.

Mental cases in perspective

From Miss Jane Reynolds
Sir, Recent press coverage about people in a mental handicap hospital suggests that there is still a misunderstanding about the difference between mental handicap and mental illness.

A piece of legislation which should have clarified the issue — the 1983 Mental Health Act — failed to do so. This Act relates mainly to people with mental illness, but it incorporated some provision relating to people with a mental handicap.

Mental handicap — defined as "arrested or incomplete development of mind" — relates to brain damage, which may occur before, during, or very soon after birth; the causes are very varied, and the range of ability in the people affected is very wide.

With mental illness, however, the intellect is not impaired, although the condition affects the mind, behaviour or personality; and predominantly it affects adults. All adults with a mental handicap were once children with a mental illness, very few adults with mental illness were affected by this condition during childhood.

Of perhaps even greater importance is that there should be an appreciation that those affected are people first, and mentally ill or mentally handicapped second; they are all far more similar to so-called "normal" people than they are different.

Yours faithfully,
JANE REYNOLDS (Director, The Westminster Society for Mentally Handicapped Adults and Children),
18 Croxley Road, W9,
April 8.

From Dr James Valentine
Sir, Your report (April 8) the health authority chairman as saying that the Royal Earlswood Hospital is "so open that the Queen's closest relative there was once found wandering on the main London to Brighton road near by at the dead of night." It seems to me that such an occurrence has little to do with openness and a great deal to do with low staffing or poor management.

It is, however, good to know that it is intended to let the frail old ladies live out their lives in the environment where they have been happy for the past 40 years. In this respect they are more fortunate than many other old people who have been obliged to move out of their familiar surroundings by the enforced and ill-planned closure of psychiatric and mental handicap hospitals, a DHSS policy to which Parliament and the media have given surprisingly small attention.

Yours faithfully,
J. VALENTINE,
Low Wood,
Ben Rhydding,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire,
April 8.

The wit to woo

From the Director of the Outward Bound Trust
Sir, We were delighted to read (April 6) that Christopher Geering's protégé returned from his course windswept and with future development in mind — to wit to woo the young lady whose telephone number he obtained while "Outward Bound".

We always knew our courses developed confidence, independence and initiative — this proves it!

Yours faithfully,
IAN L. FOTHERGILL, Director,
Outward Bound Trust,
Chestnut Field,
Regent Place,
Rugby, Warwickshire,
April 7.

centre: coach drivers who are obliged to drop their parties far from their destination, and so on.

This problem is common to nearly all establishments within Bath which are trying to cater for the constant flow of tourists and out-of-town visitors to this unique place, and yet it is not insoluble.

There are many methods of tackling such issues — out-of-town car parks, park-and-ride, pedestrianisation of the city centre, redesigned traffic-flow systems — as has been demonstrated in other towns. But it can only be done by the people who live here and who have day-to-day experience of the conditions, not by officials residing in Bristol or elsewhere who have neither the immediate contact with the problems, nor the incentive to correct them.

I agree totally with Chris Patten — give control back to the city council.
Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HAWDON,
Summerhill House,
20 Bathwick Hill,
Bath, Avon,
April 2.

Other firms may feel able to continue to provide a service based on a quite different overhead structure. Such a structure cannot provide the same level of service as heretofore: it is not a question of solicitors trying to get away with using the second-class justice argument. What is contemplated is a further step in breaking up the legal profession into quite disparate special interest groups, at a time when it is increasingly perceived that the real public interest will be served by uniting it.

Yours faithfully,
QUINTIN BARRY,
Donne Milham & Haddock (Solicitors),
Frederick Place,
Brighton, East Sussex.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 11 1960

Sir Laurens van der Post, author and explorer, celebrated his 80th birthday last December. This letter appeared a fortnight after the Sharpeville riots in South Africa and the consequent appeal launched by Christian Action, which later apologised to Sir Laurens.

SOUTH AFRICA

Sir, It is with much regret that I am compelled to ask you to disassociate me from the advertisement you published on behalf of Christian Action on March 25, to which my attention has only just been drawn, and to which my name was added without my consent. I was not consulted and I have not given permission for my name to be used by Christian Action save for two specific ends: to raise money for the Treason Trial Fund and the subsequent Defence Aid Fund.

I, myself, have been an opponent of apartheid ever since it was adopted as policy by the Nationalist Government. I also opposed its forerunner, General Hertzog's policy of segregation. In fact, ever since I was a boy I have fought with every positive means at my disposal against colour prejudice and racial discrimination in Africa. But no matter how much I deplore the handling of this tragic situation by the Government of South Africa, no matter how fully I sympathise with the object of the advertised appeal, I cannot identify myself with its mood and wording of unqualified condemnation of "the whites".

To-day the situation in Africa in general, and South Africa in particular, is so grave that the need for the utmost precision in our thinking, feeling, and action is imperative. In my opinion in this country the lack of this precision is doing irreparable damage and adding to the confusion in the minds of my countrymen of all races. One example of it, as illustrated by the boycott, is the increasing inability in this country to distinguish between the Government of South Africa and its people. General Smuts, who was born a Boer as I was (unlike Dr. Verwoerd, who is a Hollander and studied at a university in early Nazi Germany), once said to me: "Outsiders will never understand South African politics unless they realize that they are essentially a battle between Afrikaner and Afrikaner over the role the British should play in our country."

I would amend this to-day by saying that no one can understand our politics unless they realize that they are increasingly a struggle between white and white over the emancipation into full citizenship of our black community.

As an example of the injury done by this lack of precision let me give you the reaction of a Boer on reading the Christian Action advertisement. He has been a gallant opponent of colour prejudice all his life and was involved in the first tragic riot near Vereeniging. "Last week," he writes, "was a bitter week for us Afrikaners. There was not one of us, and very few among the Nationalists, who did not deplore such a tragic loss of life. But there is not one of us who was not shocked also by the denial in the outside world of our right to defend our lives against violence. . . . What seems so strange is that, in the world, European blood in South Africa apparently is cheap, and African blood alone is sacred. Apparently Christian Action, judging by its advertisement in *The Times*, condones in the Afrikaner the violence it deplores in the whites". . . .

Yours sincerely,
LAURENS VAN DER POST,
13, Cadogan Street, S.W.3, April 8.

Distress signals

From Commander R. A. G. Clare
Sir, I have very sympathy with Councillor Mansell (April 3) in her endeavours to gain assistance in remote places.

Although she has had little success using one of the better known nautical ploys, she might care to refer to Annex IV of the International Rule of the Road, where others may be found.

For example, she could try "slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched to each side", or (somewhat more dramatically) "a gun or other explosive signal fired at intervals of about a minute". By night, I am sure, success would be guaranteed by "flames on the vessel (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, etc.)", always assuming she has a tolerant insurer. Perhaps most effectively, she could invest in a transmitter and make "a signal sent by radiotelephony consisting of the spoken word 'Mayday'". In any event, when next passing the New Forest, my lookouts will be especially vigilant.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. G. CLARE,
HMS Birmingham,
HM Naval Base, Rosyth,
Fife, Scotland,
April 6.

Election frolic

From Mr P. M. Walmesley
Sir, Henry Stanhope, in today's issue of your paper, comments on the boredom of a modern British general election.

But it was not always so. A *Gleaner* Journal of the election year of 1826 has a story of a society lady looking for a place where she could enjoy "the fun and frolic of a contested election" after the long hours of a London season.

Yours truly,
P. M. WALMESLEY,
Foxhills,
France Lynch, Stroud,
Gloucestershire,
April 1.

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The most successful theory in the whole of physics, developed in the 1940s to explain how electrons and light interact, is beginning to show cracks.

The theory, known as quantum electrodynamics (QED), has been subjected to the toughest tests until now, but has always passed with flying colors. One of its predictions, concerning a tiny correction to the magnetic field of the electron, has been tested to the limits of theoretical and experimental accuracy, and has been found to agree to about a few parts per billion.

Now, physicists at the University of Michigan have carried out an experiment where the agreement is only one part in 500, a comparatively appalling mismatch.

Professor Arthur Rich and Professor David Gidley, working with Chris Westbrook and Ralph Coont, of the university's physics department, have been checking the lifetime of the bizarre atom formed by an electron and its anti-matter counterpart, the positron, in our laboratory.

Because of the close proximity of the matter and anti-matter particles, "positronium", as the atom is called, only survives for about one-millionth of a second before vanishing in a burst of gamma rays. QED enables that lifetime to be predicted.

By timing the creation and destruction of the atom, Professor Rich and his colleagues have found that positronium has a 0.2 per cent shorter lifespan than predicted by the theory.

"Even a difference half as small could be the cause for a disaster," according to Professor David Hald *The Times* that a team of theoreticians in the university were now working hard trying to find out if QED could provide an answer.

The key to the puzzle lies in the formula used to calculate the lifetime of the atom. The formula consists of a series of terms, which, theoreticians hope, get smaller and smaller as the series is continued. That is, the terms have been only a few terms important in calculating the lifetime of positronium.

However, so far the theoreticians have been able only to work out the size of the first term in the series. According to

Professor Rich, calculating the next one is extremely hard, but the experimental results now imply it cannot be ignored.

Whether or not QED can produce a term of great enough size to explain the discrepancy remains to be seen. But even if it can, Professor Rich believes there could still be trouble for quantum electrodynamics. Quantum chromodynamics, the theory used to understand the behaviour of quarks, the building blocks of matter, could also run into trouble if large terms become necessary to make theory and observation agree.

However, some physicists remain rather sceptical about the latest claims. Professor Paul Davies, a leading theoretician at Newcastle University, says that the past few years have seen some spectacular claims being made, but none as bold as such as the supposed detection of the magnetic monopole, which have failed to be confirmed by other researchers. It may be too early to abandon so successful a theory as QED.

Source: *Physical Review Letters*, March 30, 1987.

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Central theory of physics

By Robert Matthews

of the matter and anti-matter particles, "positronium", as the atom is called, only survives for about one-millionth of a second before vanishing in a burst of gamma rays. QED enables that lifetime to be predicted.

By fining the creation and destruction of the atom, Professor Rich and his colleagues have found that positronium has a 0.2 per cent shorter lifespan than predicted by the theory.

There is a difference, however, as small would be cause for alarm", according to Professor Rich. He told *The Times* that a team of theoreticians in the university were now working hard trying to find out if QED could provide an answer.

The key to the puzzle lies in the formula used to calculate the lifetime of the atom. The formula consists of a series of terms, which the theoreticians hope, get smaller and smaller as the series is continued. That would make only the first few terms important in calculating the lifetime of positronium.

However, so far the theoreticians have been able only to work out the size of the first term in the series. According to

Professor Rich, calculating the next term is extremely hard, but the experimental results now imply it cannot be ignored.

Whether or not QED can produce a term of great enough size to explain the discrepancy remains to be seen. But even if it can, Professor Rich believes there could still be trouble for physics.

Quantum chromodynamics, the theory used to understand the behaviour of quarks, the building blocks of matter, could also run into trouble if large terms become necessary to make theory and observation agree.

However, some physicists remain rather sceptical about the latest claim. Professor Paul Davies, a leading physicist at Newcastle University, says that the past few years have seen some spectacular claims being made by experimentalists, such as the supposed detection of the magnetic monopole, which have failed to be confirmed by other researchers. It may be too early to abandon so successful a theory as QED, he believes.

Source: *Physical Review Letters*, March 30, 1987.

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1523.8 (-22.4)

FT-SE 100
1936.7 (-26.1)

Bargains
39100 (38099)

USM (Datastream)
163.86 (-0.35)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6275 (+0.0095)

W German mark
2.9409 (-0.0144)

Trade-weighted
72.1 (-0.1)

Walker in
£17m sale
of shares

Mr George Walker has sold almost half of his 38.3 per cent stake in the Brent Walker leisure group, which he founded, for £17 million. Some £10 million will be used to widen his investment portfolio and the balance will finance his purchase of new shares in the company to which he is entitled under a rights issue announced yesterday. He will retain just above 20 per cent of the share capital.

The rights issue, which will raise about £25 million, is being made to fund a number of new developments, including a £15 million world trade centre in Cardiff and the expansion of the newly-acquired Le Touquet site in northern France.

News of the rights issue accompanied the group's trading results for 1986, which showed an impressive 93 per cent advance in pretax profits to £7.2 million. The final dividend is 5p a share, more than doubling the total from 4p to 8.5p a share.

Temps, page 25

YRM placing

YRM, a building design consultancy, has had 3.5 million shares placed by James Capel, at 133p raising £4.7 million before expenses. The group is seeking a full listing on the Stock Exchange and will be capitalized at £15.96 million.

Temps, page 25

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2335.65 (-3.55)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	23216.59 (+294.39)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2766.41 (-19.06)
Amsterdam	Gen	287.9 (-5.5)
Sydney	AO	1767.4 (+15.8)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1795.7 (-48.0)
Brussels	General	4584.86 (+17.89)
Paris	CAC	449.3 (-3.6)
Zurich	SKA Gen	835.5 (-5.4)
London	FT A	974.45 (-12.06)
FT. Gits		89.68 (-0.87)

Recent issues
Closing prices

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	10%
3-month interbank 9 1/4	9 1/4
3-month eligible bills 9 1/4	9 1/4
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate 7 1/4	
Federal Funds 6 1/4	
3-month Treasury Bills 5.75-5.78	
30-year bonds 8 1/2	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.6275	£: \$1.6275
DM: £2.9409	DM: £2.9409
SwF: £1.4980	SwF: £1.4980
FF: £6.1252	FF: £6.1252
Yen: £122.52	Yen: £122.52
Index: 72.1	Index: 72.1
ECU: £0.7875	SDR: £0.79169

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises:	
Sharma Ware	178p (+18p)
Lorho	290p (+10p)
RT Zinc	255p (+10p)
Consolidated Gold	995p (+38p)
London United	655p (+15p)
Wellcome	392p (+12p)
Postmans	392p (+12p)
Unigroup	113p (+13p)
House of Loree	235p (+19p)
Alkins Brothers	297p (+13p)
Farline Boats	285p (+10p)
Miles 33	560p (+247p)

FALLS:

Lloyds	471p (-18p)
Midland Bank	458p (-20p)
AB Ports	1158p (-25p)
Shell	1284p (-31p)
ICI	432p (-17p)
Glaxo	377p (-32p)

Prices are as at 4pm

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$432.30 pm \$431.60	
close \$431.50-432.00 (£265.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$432.60-433.10	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm \$18.00 bb (\$17.97)

Denotes latest trading price

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Family Money 28

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Markets hit by disappointing G7 result

Dollar falls to
post-war low

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar fell sharply yesterday, as the foreign exchange markets registered their disappointment with the outcome of the Group of Seven meeting in Washington.

The dollar's slide, to a post-war low against the yen, had severe knock-on effects on other markets. Shares and government stocks encountered heavy selling in London, before a steadier performance on Wall Street helped to stem the tide.

The FT 30-share index fell 22.4 points to 1,523.8, having been more than 30 points down at one stage. The wider FTSE-100 index fell by 26.1 points to 1,936.7. Government stocks lost up to 1 1/4 points.

The leading central banks intervened in the markets to support the dollar, but with only limited success. Intervention was detected from the Bank of Japan, the Bundesbank, the Bank of France and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Currency dealers said the intervention, thought to be quite heavy, had "bought time" for the dollar, but that further pressure was likely next week.

In particular, the opening of the Tokyo market, late tomorrow European time, could see heavy dollar selling.

But the dollar ended at

Y142.50 in London, a post-war low, and down from Y144.80 on Thursday. It fell by two pence to DM1.8070 against the mark while sterling, although mainly on the sidelines, gained 95 points to close at \$1.6275.

Before Wednesday's Group of Seven meeting, the dollar was at about Y146 and DM1.83. But the failure of the leading countries' finance ministers to come up with new initiatives, and the apparent falling-out with Japan were the wrong signals for the markets, analysts said.

Gifts plunged in response to worries about higher world interest rates, while equities were hit by fears of a slow-down in growth and moves towards protectionism.

Gold, the natural haven for

funds fleeing the dollar, rose

to a six-month high of \$433.50

during the day, before closing

at \$431.75.

People are concerned

about the implications of a

dollar slide on interest rates,"

said Mr Richard Jeffrey,

economist at Hoare Govett.

But the factors pushing up

rates in the United States

could force rates down in the

rest of the world.

There is general nervous-

ness in the markets about the

danger of a hard landing for

the dollar," Mr Keith Skoob

of James Capel said.

In his contribution to a

concerted attempt by the G7

participants to calm the mar-

kets, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa,

the Japanese finance minister,

said on his return to Tokyo

that the yen was still within

the range agreed at the Paris

meeting of leading industrial-

ized countries in Feb-

ruary 22. These ranges were

wider than generally assumed.

But such assurances had

little effect in the markets

yesterday. Currency dealers

said the period since the Paris

agreement had, if anything,

proved the ineffectiveness of

central bank intervention.

Analysts also detected a new

mood of defiance from Japan

on both the trade issue and her

willingness to stimulate the

economy.

The rate of inflation rose to 4

per cent last month, its highest

for a year. But inflation is

expected to drop to a tempo-

rary low in May, before

moving higher over the

summer.

City economists expect the

May retail price index, to be

published on June 12, to show

an inflation rate of about 3.5

per cent.

Should the general election

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June, this would allow the

Government to claim that

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fore the last general election.

In May 1983, the rate of

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The retail price index stood

at 100.6 (January 1987 = 100)

last month, an increase of 0.2

per cent on the level of 100.4

in February.

The inflation rate over 12

months, 4 per cent, was

slightly up on the 3.9 per cent

recorded in February.

There were higher prices for

motor vehicles, household

goods, clothing, footwear,

restaurant meals and some al-

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But the prices of seasonal

foods and heating oil for home

use fell. There was also a small

drop - of 1p to 173 1/2p - in

the average price of a gallon of

four-star petrol.

Prices in March were only



Mr Miyazawa: markets took no notice of his assurance that the yen is within agreed limits

Inflation climbs to 4%
high for 12 monthsBy Our Economics
Correspondent

The rate of inflation rose to 4 per cent last month, its highest for a year. But inflation is expected to drop to a temporary low in May, before moving higher over the summer.

City economists expect the May retail price index, to be published on June 12, to show an inflation rate of about 3.5 per cent.

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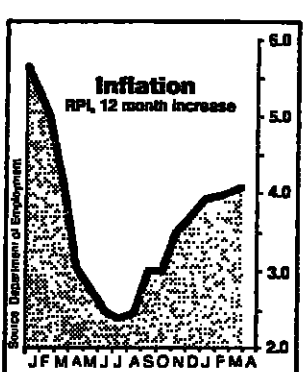
In May 1983, the rate of inflation was 3.7 per cent. The retail price index stood at 100.6 (January 1987 = 100) last month, an increase of 0.2 per cent on the level of 100.4 in February.

The inflation rate over 12 months, 4 per cent, was slightly up on the 3.9 per cent recorded in February.

There were higher prices for motor vehicles, household goods, clothing, footwear, restaurant meals and some alcoholic drinks.

But the prices of seasonal foods and heating oil for home use fell. There was also a small drop - of 1p to 173 1/2p - in the average price of a gallon of four-star petrol.

Prices in March were only



one fifth of a penny in the

pound higher than in Feb-

ruary," Mr Kenneth Clarke,

the Paymaster General, said

yesterday. Despite the small

rise in the annual inflation

rate, "it is reassuring, how-

ever, that inflation remains at

a low level," he said.

The inflation rate should fall this month because of the Chancellor's decision not to raise excise duties in the Budget. The only significant Budget effect will arise, ironically, from the 2p cut in the basic rate of income tax.

By reducing the amount of tax relief available on mortgage payments, the income tax cut will add 0.12 per cent to the retail price index for April.

Even so, the April increase in the index is likely to be well under the 1 per cent rise a year ago.

For May, the one point

reduction in the mortgage rate announced by most leading building societies will produce a 0.36 per cent drop in the RPI. Again, the prospect is for an increase smaller than last year, when the monthly rise in May was 0.2 per cent.

James Capel, the stockbroker, expects April's inflation rate to fall to 3.7 or 3.8 per cent, followed by a further drop to 3.4 per cent in May. The rate will then move higher over the summer, due to comparisons with the small monthly rises a year earlier. In the Budget, the Chancellor forecast that inflation would rise to 4 1/2 per cent or more over the summer, before falling to 4 per cent by the end of the year.

Britain's inflation rate was high by international standards. The latest average was 2.3 per cent for industrialized countries and 2.8 per cent for the EEC. Japan, West Germany and The Netherlands are still experiencing falling prices compared with a year earlier.

The tax and price index, which takes into account changes in direct taxation, rose by 2.8 per cent in the 12 months to March, compared with 2.7 per cent in February. Inflation on this measure should drop sharply this month due to the income tax cut announced in the Budget.

Lonrho
share
freeze
stays

By Ray Heath

A freeze of 280,000 shares in Lonrho held by the House of Fraser stores group was ordered to remain in place by the High Court yesterday.

Lonrho has been attempting to obtain information about the ownership of the shares and Mr Justice Vinelott ruled the company had made its case that House of Fraser had not given "wholly accurate or complete" answers to requests for information.

House of Fraser holds the shares, together with three of its nominees. A similar order refers to a further 30,000 Lonrho shares held in the name of Mr Royston Webb, a lawyer employed by the company.

House of Fraser has argued that the ownership of the shares was never questioned, but the judge said yesterday doubts had been raised.

On Thursday, Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, announced that inspectors were to be appointed to look into the circumstances surrounding share purchases in House of Fraser in 1984 and 1985.

The exact grounds on which the investigation was ordered are still unclear. Neither the Department of Trade and Industry nor Lonrho would indicate whether the evidence had prompted Mr Channon's decision.

Lonrho's Mr Paul Spicer said: "I am not prepared to comment about new facts."

Last month, Lonrho lost an attempt in the High Court to force the issue back before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which had ruled against earlier Lonrho bids.

The judge then said it was premature to make Mr Channon review the matter, which was under consideration by the DTI. But he added that if a decision were delayed much beyond end-March, the court might consider imposing a time limit.

Mr Spicer said he thought the statement may have influenced the DTI decision to order an investigation.

He denied that a letter to Mr Channon from Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, earlier this week would have triggered the inquiry.

In the letter, Mr Rowland said he met Mr Ernest Saunders, the former head of Guinness, last weekend. Their discussions on the Distillers bid, he alleged, confirmed his earlier accusations that the decision-making process at the DTI was questionable and open to outside influence.

Paris accord 'will hold'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Ministers of the industrialized countries yesterday attempted to convince markets of their determination to hold together a fragile agreement on exchange rates as pressure on the dollar mounted. There was substantial intervention by central banks.

Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, warned ministers attending the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank that "the US and the six major industrial countries are fully committed to implementing our undertaking in these agreements". Mr Baker's remarks were viewed as a strong response by the Reagan Administration to reports that the US would let the dollar drop further.

The statements by finance ministers were made on a day in which officials expressed new concern over the debt crisis which they said urgently required a strong response from commercial banks.

Ministers of the powerful

Group of Seven nations were united in their responses to the market's testing of Wednesday's reaffirmed Paris accord.

M Edouard Balladur, the French finance minister, said: "I do not believe the US wants a lower dollar now or in the future." Ministers said they could not be guided by short-term fluctuations in currency rates.

But there were indications of internal dissension among the G7 members about their commitment to the agreement. Signor Giovanni Goria, the Italian treasury minister, was forced to issue a statement denying remarks attributed to him that "it was a weak response to a worsened situation".

There was also concern that Japan would not be able to live up to its commitment to produce an emergency package of growth measures because of strong opposition among cabinet ministers.

Separately, in addresses to the interim committees and development committees of the World Bank and the IMF, ministers stressed the debt crisis was far from over and urged co-ordinated action to rid the world of distortions in agriculture and other sectors of the world economy marked by huge imbalances among the leading trading countries.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, called for a co-ordinated effort to end agricultural subsidies.

In its final communiqué, the IMF's interim committee said the time in which debtor countries had been expected to regain normal market access had proved much longer than anticipated. The committee also stressed its concerns over the increase in protectionist actions which were hampering world trade.

"The situation of many heavily indebted developing countries remained extremely difficult," the communiqué said.

Nakasone comes under fire

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japanese cabinet ministers turned on Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the prime minister, at the regular cabinet meeting yesterday, accusing him of economic and fiscal mismanagement in the wake of Japan's "humiliation" at the G7 meeting in Washington.

The attack on Mr Nakasone came as the yen hit a new low against the dollar, exports rose 9.4 per cent in March, and his deputy turned against his tax reform plan.

The attack was led by Mr Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, who complained that Japan had been singled out in demands at the G7 meeting to open further its domestic mar-

kets. Mr Tamura said Japan had already done so and its import tariffs on industrial goods were the lowest in the world. It was "extremely regrettable" that Japan alone was forced to make promises.

Mr Masajuro Shiokawa, the education minister, criticized "Mr Nakasone's inconsistent fiscal policies." Mr Nakasone said only that Japan was in a precarious position.

Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the minister of finance, was even more oblique than usual. "It's true that the present level of the yen is a little too severe," he admitted, but refused to be drawn on whether the other

six nations were engaging in Japan-bashing.

"Japan is not so weak that it suffers from bullying and we are making every effort to liberalize. In most things we are liberalized; it's just in things like the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the second KDD (in which Cable and Wireless is involved) and the new Kansai International Airport that we get requests." He said continued joint intervention in the market had been agreed.

"Japan is the world's second biggest economy and if a country reaches a position like that it is a matter of course that problems arise," he added.

Sweeping changes at Midland

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank yesterday announced the departure of two of its most senior executive directors in a series of sweeping management changes designed to streamline the group's top management structure and cut costs.

At the same time, Sir Michael Palliser, the chairman of Midland Montagu, is to become deputy chairman of the Midland Group in a move signalling the central importance which the group now attaches to investment banking.

The changes come into effect on May 1, the same day that Sir Kit McMahon, the chief executive, also takes over as executive chairman.

They were greeted with approval in the City as his most decisive steps so far in pushing the bank towards recovery.

The stock market, however, was already worried by South American debt problems and the shares dropped more than 20p to 371p.

Mr Ian Paterson, head of UK Retail Banking, and Mr



Sir Michael Palliser: moves up to deputy chairman

John Harris, head of Group Resources, are leaving the group. Midland said that the reorganisation left no sufficiently senior post for either man to fill. Both are executive

33	114%	Unit Group	49	52	2
			112	117	5

Finance director 'only acted on Saunders' instructions'

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, ordered files, appointment diaries and correspondence to be shredded after the Department of Trade began its investigation of the company in December, his former personal assistant claimed in the High Court in London yesterday.

In an affidavit, Mrs Margaret McGrath said she had destroyed a diary "with great reluctance" but Mr Saunders had been unusually insistent. Among the documents that were destroyed, she said, were papers from the Distillers Company bid files; his 1986 office diary, correspondence and address book entries. She was also asked to remove references to appointments with various people, including Mr Meshulam Riklis, the head of Rapid American Corporation, his Swiss lawyer and his Swiss bank manager.

All this was done despite a memorandum, circulated by Mr Olivier Roux, the finance director, on December 4, expressly prohibiting the destruction of documentation. The affidavit by Mrs McGrath, who is in Majorca on holiday, was read to Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, the Vice-Chancellor, by Mr David Oliver, QC, counsel for Guinness, on the third day of the hearing of an application by Mr Saunders and Mr Thomas Ward for the discharge of "asset-freezing" orders obtained by Guinness on March 18.

The temporary orders froze assets owned by Mr Ward or Mr Saunders up to the £5.2 million allegedly paid from Guinness funds into a Jersey bank last May in connection with the Distillers Company takeover.

The two men are also contesting orders requiring them to disclose the "present whereabouts" of the £5.2 million, to repatriate that sum, or any part of it, and hand it over to Guinness lawyers.

Mrs McGrath's affidavit was read out after the judge had overruled a submission on behalf of Mr Saunders that it was inadmissible. He ruled that it went to the issue raised by Mr Saunders as to the correctness of his behaviour as chairman and chief executive.

Mr Philip Heslop, QC, counsel for Mr Saunders, had argued that the contents of the statement were, "in a technical sense, scandalous, irrelevant and oppressive."

Mrs McGrath said she had

worked for Mr Saunders as his personal assistant from October 1981 until he was dismissed in January.

Mr Saunders had three diaries to organize his appointments and commitments, she said. There was a small pocket diary, a desk diary and an office diary which were all kept up to date by herself and Mr Saunders's secretary.

She also maintained monthly chronological files relating to the Distillers bid.

In December, she said, Mr Saunders asked to see the Distillers bid files in his office. Shortly after that he gave her a small bundle of papers to give to his secretary to be shredded.

Mr Saunders was "equally anxious," his 1986 office diary should be destroyed at the end of the year. He brought the matter up again in the first week in January, by which time she had shredded it.

This was done despite a memo from finance director, Mr Olivier Roux which prohibited the destruction of documentation.

"I destroyed the diary with great reluctance," Mrs McGrath said but Mr Saunders had been unusually insistent.

Mr Saunders also asked her to check the office diary and erase appointments he had had with Mr Riklis.

There were only one or two entries relating to him in May and June 1986, she said. He seemed "very sensitive" about any connection with Mr Riklis.

Between November 10 and 13, she said, Mr Saunders visited several European countries. He later asked Mrs McGrath to erase a diary reference to an appointment he was to have with a Mr Heubner in Zurich.

Mr Saunders also asked her to shred letters connected with Mr Riklis and Mr Heubner. She also "obeyed" a request from Mr Saunders to remove their addresses from his address book.

Papers concerning a Mr Cooper, who ran a research and marketing company, were handed to Mr Saunders. "I can only assume these were destroyed," said Mrs McGrath.

Mr Saunders's address book was removed from the office when he left the company on January 9, she said.

Mrs McGrath said she was phoned by Mr Saunders's wife, Carol, on January 12 and told the diary had been picked up by mistake and would be returned to the office.



Olivier Roux: ordered documents should not be destroyed

When it was, she added, some of the addresses had been cut out. Most of them were personal friends including his Swiss lawyer, a Mr Olivier Bourgeois, and his Swiss bank manager, a Mr Le Collier.

Earlier, Mr Oliver read out an affidavit by Mr Roux, Guinness's former finance director, who resigned his directorship in January, and who was the author of a letter to the lawyer, Sir David Napley, which implicated Mr Saunders with Guinness share support operations.

During the Distillers bid, said Mr Roux, he was concerned to assist Mr Saunders in any way he could. It was Mr Saunders who led the acquisition teams and gave them instructions - they did their best to carry them out.

"It was not my role to make executive decisions on my own behalf. I only ever acted on instructions given to me by Mr Saunders," he said.

Mr Roux denied he was responsible for financial matters during last year's Distillers bid in the way Mr Saunders had described.

Towards the end of April, he said, Mr Ward told him he would be sending him an invoice for the Jersey company, MAC, for £5.2 million,

which, he said, had been agreed with Mr Saunders.

The sum was to pay the numerous consultancy costs of many organizations in connection with research work in the United States during the Distillers takeover. The underlying invoices were not presented, said Mr Roux, but he had full confidence in Mr Ward. Mr Saunders told him he had agreed the payment of the fees and asked him (Mr Roux) to process the invoice.

In the light of previous advice from Price-Waterhouse, Guinness's auditors, Mr Roux said he pointed out to Mr Saunders that he would need to show that no director of Guinness had benefited from the payment.

On Mr Saunders's express assurance of that, said Mr Roux, he agreed to process the invoice. He denied he knew the fee was for the benefit of Mr Ward, or that Mr Saunders had informed him of his negotiations with Mr Ward over the £5.2 million "success" fee.

He said Mr Saunders's account of events was "completely untrue".

Even if Mr Saunders had told him of the agreement, which he utterly denied, it was quite untrue for him to say he would have left it to Mr Roux

to gain proper board approval for it.

Mr Roux said he was not aware that Mr Ward had played "a significant part" in the negotiations relating to the merger agreement with Distillers, which, Mr Ward had claimed, provided a £100 million safety net.

Mr Ward's counsel, Mr Peter Curry, QC, told the Vice-Chancellor that Mr Ward had sold his 5,000 Guinness shares "inadvertently" breaching the court order of March 18. The proceeds would not be touched by Mr Ward, he said.

Mr Oliver said the company was no longer accusing Mr Saunders of "lining his own pockets" with the £5 million which, it was alleged, was paid into his Swiss bank account. Mr Heslop, Mr Saunders's counsel, asked whether that meant that Guinness was withdrawing its allegation of fraud against Mr Saunders.

The judge replied, and Mr Oliver agreed, that it was now clear that "on the evidence before the court today, Guinness was not pursuing the allegation that monies received into Mr Saunders's account in Switzerland were for his own benefit and use. But Guinness was not withdrawing any allegation."

He said the allegation by Guinness's executive director, Mr Shaun Dowling, that Mr Saunders had struck a secret deal with Mr Ward that £3 million of the £5.2 million would go to Mr Saunders, was made before Mr Ward's statement in March this year that all the disputed money was in his (Mr Ward's) control.

Mr Oliver said that one of several unanswered questions in the case was where that money was now. Guinness knew only that it was "on deposit somewhere in the United States."

Mr Oliver said Mr Ward's services in the Distillers bid were nothing like as central or important as he claimed.

He told the judge in view of the evidence that the remaining money was now in Mr Ward's control, and not in Mr Saunders's possession it is "difficult for us to ask you to continue the order against Mr Saunders for the repatriation of sums that he no longer has."

But Guinness was still asking for the continuation of the asset freezing order against Mr Saunders, he said.

The hearing continues on Monday.

COMMENT

Glaxo going through a purple patch

Glaxo, weighing in at a stock market value of £1.1 billion, is hardly a lightweight. Yet since the tail end of last year, its shares have been performing like some USM hoiststock, soaring 80 per cent between December and February. Clearly the half-time profits due next week will have to meet high expectations.

The betting at present is that Glaxo will not disappoint its new-found supporters, many of whom hail from the East these days. For the company is enjoying a purple patch that should last some time. Most pharmaceutical companies, even those with research budgets far bigger than Glaxo's, would happily give their eye-teeth for a single so-called wonder drug such as Zantac, the all-conquering anti-ulcer treatment. But Glaxo may well have another up its sleeve, which will take over as the engine of sales growth when Zantac's star is on the wane.

It does not have a name, merely the code GR38032F. Glaxo gave a sketchy outline of the drug late last year after market speculation about its potential sent the share price spiralling 10 per cent in a matter of days. Its attraction to the medical profession is that it may well prove to be an effective treatment for anxiety, free of the addictive qualities common with other drugs. GR38032F has other applications, notably in cases of schizophrenia and in combating vomiting caused by anti-cancer drugs.

Zantac was the world's first drug to top \$1 billion of sales. Already some analysts are looking for higher figures from the new product, which could be launched as soon as 1988. Barclays de Zoete Wedd sees sales of \$1.3 billion after five years. Even if GR38032F does perform according to plan, Glaxo will be far from a two-drug company. It has at least three other promising preparations in the pipeline, plus a number whose potential will emerge in due course. Glaxo's long-term future looks bright. The market has been overlooking the prospect recently with its eyes fixed squarely on the strong current performance of the group.

The half-time profits on Monday should underline this, with a gain of 50 per cent to £390 million possible. The falling dollar will have trimmed profits in the US but there should be more than ample compensation from other currency movements such as the mark, yen and lira. Zantac sales, expected in the City to have topped £800 million, should help margins to rise above last year's underlying level.

All being well, Monday's announcement should point to full-year profits in the region of £845 million to £850 million. This suggests that the prospective earnings multiple for the current year is about 17. For a company with Glaxo's potential, the premium rating is lower than it might be.

Price doubts at Elders

Whatever the source of the leak that Elders IXL plans to float the Courage pub business, the Australian brewing group will hardly be displeased that this particular option is receiving a thorough airing.

In Hoare Govett and Fielding Newson it has competent enough stockbrokers, but it may well feel it lacks a deep enough relationship with the leading institutions. Even Courage's contacts may be a little rusty this long after losing its independence to Imperial Group, so having the idea kicked around in public may be as good a way as any for Elders of having some feedback before committing itself.

It may not like what it hears. Analysts are taking some convincing that the 5,000 pubs could be worth £200,000 each, even given the good quality of the Courage estate and the preponderance of its pubs in the prosperous South. The average price of a pub is put at £130,000 and Elders could not expect much more than £160,000 for the Courage outlets, analysts argue, suggesting a total sale price of £750 million. At this price it is

thought the investing institutions would see plenty of scope for improving return on capital.

Even this would be optimistic, of course, if Elders cannot tie up a watertight - or should it be beertight - contract for continued exclusive rights to sell its ales and lagers through the Courage pumps. Any such condition would reduce the attraction of the property company.

Elders' idea is likely to encourage other leading brewers to look more closely at the idea of hiving off their estates. Some have already begun to do a few sums, prompted by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the tied estate system which is expected to report in July or August.

One result of this investigation is that the brewing industry has become much more aware of the value of its estate. After all, at £130,000 apiece, Britain's 50,000 tied pubs are worth £6.5 billion, compared with the £17 billion valuation of the entire brewery sector - and that includes Guinness, which owns no pubs at all.

W German growth 'to slow'

Bonn (Reuters) - Independent forecasters will present a new assessment of the West German economy next week which is expected to show a sharp downward revision in growth prospects, compared with a report made only six months ago.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, a Munich newspaper, yesterday said West Germany's five leading research institutes,

which publish their spring report on Monday, would predict 1987 growth of 1 to 2 per cent, against 3 per cent jointly forecast last autumn. It added that the institutes had been unable to reach a consensus on growth prospects for 1987.

The newspaper said the HWWA, the RWI in Essen and the Kiel Institute believed

German GNP could expand by 2 per cent this year.

The DIW institute in West Berlin and Munich's IFO institute said the 1 per cent growth they saw for 1987 was a sign the economy was entering a downturn, according to the article.

Since their autumn report, four institutes have revised sharply downward their forecasts for 1987.

UEI to buy Miles 33

UEI, the computer software to Cosworth engines group, is making an agreed £27.4 million offer for the computer systems supplier, Miles 33, which was valued at just £2.1 million when it joined the USM less than five years ago.

Holders of 52.8 per cent of the Miles share capital are accepting the five-shares-for-three terms which, at prices ruling just before the announcement, value each

Miles share at 623p, compared with 374p on Thursday.

The move comes only 10 weeks after plans for a hi-tech merger between UEI and Oxford Instruments were abandoned.

UEI expects to announce a turnover of £115 million for the year ended on January 31, together with profits of about £17 million, against £13.1 million last time. It expects to pay a 3.8p final dividend.

Maxwell raised extra £20m

By Joe Joseph

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, has sold more shares than at first thought in his drive to build up funds for further media acquisitions.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Maxwell had raised about £20 million from selling 8.56 million shares in Arlington Securities, the property developer, through his privately-owned Pergamon Press. His

stake represented 16.2 per cent of Arlington's shares.

On Thursday Mr Maxwell raised an estimated £100 million by selling 30 million shares in his printing and publishing group, British Printing & Communication Corporation, and a further 10.5 million in his engineering subsidiary, Hollis.

Mr Maxwell, who already has wide media interests

including the *Daily Mirror* and *London Daily News*, has not hidden his ambition to extend his empire.

Yesterday he was in Lisbon for talks with the President, Senhor Mario Soares, on Portugal's television industry. The previous day he met the Spanish prime minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, to discuss a role in Spain's plans for private television.

TEMPUS

Soaring Brent Walker starts to soothe the City's nerves

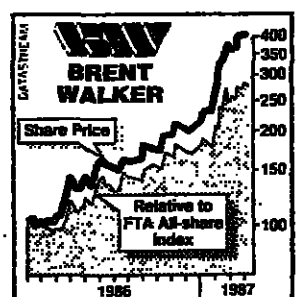
There have been better days on which to shift 17.6 per cent of a company through the market, but Scrimgeour Vickers was operating from a position of some strength when it took on board 4.8 million shares in George Walker's leisure combine, Brent Walker, yesterday.

Not only was the news accompanied by a 93 per cent profit leap to £7,204,000 in 1986 and a more-than-doubled dividend of 8.5p a share against 4p last time, but it came also as Mr Walker unveiled plans for an ambitious development programme. This includes a £15 million World Trade Centre project in Cardiff, a £4.8 million expansion of the Le Touquet site on the north coast of France, a £4.5 million facility of the Kursaal amusement park in Southend, Essex, and the £2 million construction of a hotel next to the Basilidon Astrodome which it is already building.

Brent is raising £35 million through a one-for-one rights issue. To avoid £500,000 or so in underwriting costs, and perhaps to help steady the price while the brokers went about their placing business, the new shares have been deeply discounted at 130p.

Scrimgeour paid the Walker family trusts just above £17 million - or 36p each - for the shares, which were part of a 38.28 per cent holding, worth £42.8 million. Mr Walker releases £10 million for investments and will use the rest to fund his rights issue subscription. He still has about 20.6 per cent, and promises to keep the holding above 20 per cent.

The market did not appear unduly unsettled by his disposal, and by the close the



share price, 402p before the news, had climbed back to 379p after plunging 370p at one point.

It seems the City is beginning to lose some of its traditional edginess about the company. If it can produce a similar increase in profits this year, and £12.5 million is predicted by its followers, it may even come to be loved.

YRM

Architects have always appeared to be out on a limb in the rough and tumble of the building industry. However, some, like YRM, have become aware of the wider opportunities presenting themselves in the fields of building design, planning and other construction oriented disciplines.

The logistics of co-ordinating the professionals involved on an important construction project are frightening and the customer is increasingly keen to give the overall responsibility to a single operator.

In response to this, although never forgetting its design-led origins, YRM is building up a multi-disciplined building design service. Its customer base is broad both geographically and by type.

Profit margins were less

than 5 per cent in 1982 but now are an impressive 12.6 per cent. The company prides itself on being cost conscious and this has been a main factor contributing to the growth in profitability.

Of the shares being placed, 2 million are new shares which will raise a net £2.1 million. The balance of 1.5 million shares is being sold by existing shareholders.

The new money will be used to improve the services provided by the group, such as computer-aided design, and to fund any future acquisitions should they present themselves.

On a forecast of £1.4 million for the year to the end of April 1987 - an increase of a third over last year - the shares are on a p/e ratio of 15.6 times. A reasonable rating for a company in a growing market with a sound record.

British Aerospace

The Government and British Aerospace have reason to be pleased about the sale of Royal Ordnance. The former got a fuller price than might have been expected, while the latter got a business which well complements its own. Although BAE and Royal Ordnance have worked together for many years, there is disquiet among some manufacturers, worried that BAE will favour its new subsidiary when specifying equipment.

An element of bias towards Royal Ordnance would not be unnatural - this factor no doubt encouraged BAE to put in the highest bid - but the effect should not be overestimated. There is negligible competition for Royal Ord-

nance's explosives and solid rocket motors, while fuses comprise a relatively small proportion of a contract's value.

However, the campaign to block the purchase is unlikely to gain momentum as many manufacturers are sitting on the sidelines, unwilling to upset BAE to which they are also suppliers.

There is also speculation as to whether the Royal Ordnance deal will have an effect on the Government's funding of the Airbus A330 and A340 - BAE wants £750 million but the Government has offered £400 million.

Some commentators suggest that now BAE has Royal Ordnance, the Government will not increase its funding.

Others think that BAE may be rewarded by the Government for buying Royal Ordnance's substantial Bridgewater factory.

Whatever, on fundamentals, BAE and Royal Ordnance make an attractive business. There are research and development savings as well as marketing opportunities.

The 1987 forecast of £227 million from defence analyst, Matthew Sutherland, at Kleinwort Grieson, the stockbroker, shows an enhancement in BAE's earnings of 10 per cent, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of under 11 times. This is not a demanding rating for business with potential.

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- The development of our domestic business continued through 1986 with the opening in August of our new branch in Kenton, Middlesex. This brings the London network total to six plus one further branch in Leeds.
- An extensive market research survey conducted in 1986 has laid the foundation for the preparation of the bank's strategic plan for continued growth through the 1990's.

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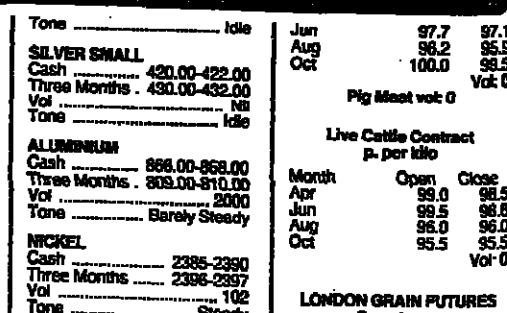
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M J J A S O N D J F M		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		steels		¢ per tonne	
In contrast to the precious metals, trading interest in oil futures has recently been limited. Geopolitical balance between short term supply pressure and longer term bearish sentiment which has been compounded by above forecast U.S. stock statistics. The market awaits a break. Comment by GNL		Official prices		MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		Month	Wheat
		Onset Tanneries Europe		Average futures prices at representative markets on April 10		May	Barley
		Price in £ per metric tonne		Silver in pieces per tray ounce		July	121.35
		Russett White & Co. Ltd report		Russett White & Co. Ltd report		Oct	112.20
INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE Supplied via Commodity Market Services Ltd		COPPER GRADE A		G+28		Nov	109.35
		Cash		G+28, 94.80p per kg liv (+1.3)		Jan	102.70
		Three Months		G+28, 97.50p per kg liv (+1.3)		Mar	106.05
		Vol		G+28, 97.50p per kg liv (+1.3)		May	107.20
HEAVY FUEL OIL		Tone		G+28, 97.50p per kg liv (+1.3)		Vol Wheat	262
		FOS		G+28, 97.50p per kg liv (+1.3)		Barley	253
		May		G+28, 97.50p per kg liv (+1.3)		LONDON POTATO FUTURES	
		Vol		G+28, 97.50p per kg liv (+1.3)		5 p per tonne	
GAS OIL		SUGAR (From C. Czarnikow)		STANDARD CATHODES		Month	Open
		May		Cash		May	164.00
		Vol		Three Months		July	165.00
		144.50-44.25		Vol		Nov	168.00
JUN		144.25-43.00		Tone		Jan	93.50
		143.25-43.00		Tone		Feb	92.80
		142.45-43.00		Tone		BRIEF	
		141.00-43.00		Tone		G.N.I. Freight Futures Ltd dry Cargo Report (1000 points)	
SEP		150.00-45.00		Tone		High/Low	
		148.00-44.00		Tone		Oct 87	1040-1010
		150.00-45.00		Tone		Oct 87	975.0-980.0
		150.00-45.00		Tone		Oct 87	900.0-895.0
NOV		150.00-45.00		Tone		Jan 88	900.0-890.0
		150.00-45.00		Tone		BRIEF	
		150.00-45.00		Tone		Vol 280 tons	
		150.00-45.00		Tone		Open 1815	
DEC		150.00-45.00		Tone		Sentiment on commodity dry cargo index	
		150.00-45.00		Tone		1019.0 down 8.0 on 9/4/87	
		150.00-45.00		Tone			
		150.00-45.00		Tone			

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Jacob for sale

The Edinburgh-based securities dealer Walter L. Jacob has offered himself for sale following the start of disciplinary proceedings by FIMBRA, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association. On Thursday FIMBRA ordered Jacob not to conduct any further business in securities or to make any payments above £500 to any one person without express permission from FIMBRA. The association says it appears the exercise of its powers is desirable for the protection of investors. Walter Jacob, chairman of Jacob, strenuously denies the FIMBRA allegations and claims his company is solvent, but says it is in the best interests of clients and employees to offer the assets of the company for sale.

£50m take-up

TSB England & Wales has received applications for its fixed rate endowment mortgage totalling £50 million in the first five days. The fixed rate of 9.9 per cent is guaranteed for five years. It is available only to borrowers taking up the new TSB Homebuyer's Plan. The minimum mortgage for the fixed rate is £25,000.

Permanent merger

The London Permanent Building Society is to be merged into the Cheltenham & Gloucester, Britain's 11th biggest society. London Permanent says high operating costs have made it increasingly difficult to compete. If the merger goes through, most London Permanent borrowers will get a 0.25 per cent reduction in their mortgage rate.

Buyers' interest

London solicitors Winward Fearon & Co have announced a new scheme for its conveyancing clients, whereby all interest accrued on purchasers' deposits during the period of exchange of contracts and completion will be refunded. The firm has also produced a useful booklet entitled *The Process of Conveyancing - Guidelines for Clients*, together with a handy detachable checklist.

Halifax buys

The Halifax Building Society has acquired Jackson Property Services, the London-based estate agency and mortgage and financial services chain.

Pensions with posers

A large part of the Finance Bill published this week was given over to explaining the new regime for personal pensions available from 1988. PETER GARTLAND examines the implications

From January 4, 1988, a personal pension can be used as an alternative to the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (SERPS), which in any event is being scaled down over several years.

Around 10 million people are making contributions to SERPS. From April 6, 1988, a further 11 million employed people will be able to join or remain in their occupational scheme or take out a money-purchase personal pension.

So far, so good. However, following publication of the Finance Bill, pensions experts were trying to unravel confusion caused by reports of the pension age being cut to 50. Ron Spill, of Legal & General,

this section was to reduce the minimum age at which self-employed people could begin taking pension benefits. At present, the self-employed cannot normally start their pension benefit until they reach 60 unless they are in poor health or follow a particularly hazardous occupation, such as deep sea diving or money market dealing, where the retirement age is customarily much earlier.

But, said Mr Spill, there would be no real change so far as the mass of working people was concerned.

The Inland Revenue confirmed on Thursday that it had long been the case that a matter of agreement between employees and their employers, subject to a minimum age laid down as far back as 1979 of 50 for men and 45 for women. Even these minimum ages could be disregarded in cases of ill-health.

But even before the brief excitement caused by pension age confusion, the pensions industry was working up a head of steam over a statement by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Norman Lamont.

Mr Lamont said on Tuesday that tax-free lump sum benefits would no longer be available on additional voluntary contribution (AVC) schemes run by an employer.

The rationale for this change, according to Mr Lamont, was that the new free-standing AVCs that will be available from October will not themselves be allowed to have a lump sum facility. So, free-standing AVCs would be at an unfair disadvantage with employers' AVCs unless they are brought into line.

Only new AVC arrangements entered into from Wednesday, April 8, will be affected, but there is still doubt as to whether the ruling applies to new AVC schemes set up from April 8 or, additionally, to new members of existing schemes.

This latest clampdown on AVCs brings into question the future of pension mortgages. A pension mortgage is closely



related to the endowment mortgage in that only interest payments are made, and the capital is repaid from the lump sum part of an individual's pension.

But it is even more tax-efficient than an endowment mortgage because there is not only tax relief at the borrower's highest rate on the interest element of loans up to £30,000, but also payments made into the pension plan are fully tax-deductible, again at the highest tax rate.

Up to now most of the relatively few pension mortgages taken out by members of occupational schemes in this small but growing market have been linked to an intended paying-off of the capital from the lump sum element of the AVC.

So does Mr Lamont's removal of AVC lump sums strangle a good idea at birth?

Mr Spill says he is disappointed with the AVC move, not least because of the Chancellor's assurance in 1985 that there would be no fundamental change in pen-

sions without a Green Paper. The consultant actuary Nigel Chambers takes a different view. He says it is premature to regard pension mortgages for employed people as being on the way out just because of Mr Lamont's announcement. Mr Chambers believes we are only now seeing the start of the development of pension mortgages for employed people.

One possibility he foresees is that the pension funds themselves could start to provide mortgage funds. Most people would probably regard a pension and a mortgage as strange bed-fellows, but not for much longer.

The actuarial firm, Watsons, is convinced that pension mortgages for employed people is an area being increasingly explored, if only so that occupational schemes can provide pension mortgage facilities comparable with those that will undoubtedly be a selling point of personal pensions.

That could hardly be better news for home-buyers.

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WHAT THE BILL MEANS

A large part of this year's Finance Bill is taken up with pensions provisions but there are several other points that are of particular interest to individual savers and investors.

The key points are:

1. Confirmation of the reduction in basic rate income tax from 29 per cent to 27 per cent (Clause 20).
2. Introduction of a new higher level of age allowance for people aged 80 and over on modest incomes (Clause 26).
3. The limit on tax-exempt life or endowment assurance business carried on by friendly societies is changed to an annual premium of £100 instead of a gross sum assured of £750 (Clause 30).
4. Companies can include in approved share option scheme rules an additional provision in the event of a take-over to permit scheme participants to exchange existing share options for options over shares in the acquiring company (Clause 33 and Schedule 4).
5. Introduction of an option for an investor under the Business Expansion Scheme to claim up to a half of his relief against income of the previous tax year subject to a limit of £5,000 carry-back for any year. The relief is available for investments made between April 6 and October 5 inclusive in any tax year from 1987-88 onwards (Clause 45).
6. Application to Lloyd's reinsurance to close (RIC) arrangements of the normal

criteria for the tax deductibility of provisions for outstanding liabilities. The change will first take effect for RIC payments in the Lloyd's 1985 account which closes at the end of 1987 (Clause 58).

7. Amendment of the rules for taxing life assurance companies' capital gains so that their gains will be taxed at the normal corporation tax rate of 35 per cent instead of 30 per cent (Clause 62). This is one of the most contentious parts of this year's Finance Bill since it will reduce payments made to life assurance policyholders. It is being vigorously contested by the life companies.

8. Increase from £100,000 to £125,000 in the ceiling for capital gains tax retirement relief (Clause 67).

9. Introduction of tax relief for employees who receive profit related pay (PRP) under schemes that link part of their pay to the profits of the business in which they work. Half of PRP will be eligible for tax relief (to be given by the employer through PAYE) up to the point where PRP is the lower of 20 per cent of the employee's total pay or £3,000 (Clauses 107-122 and Schedule 11).

10. Introduction of higher starting point (£90,000) and simplified rate scale for inheritance tax. Abolition of existing inheritance tax charge on certain transfers made more than seven years before death, involving interest in possession trusts (Clause 147).

PG

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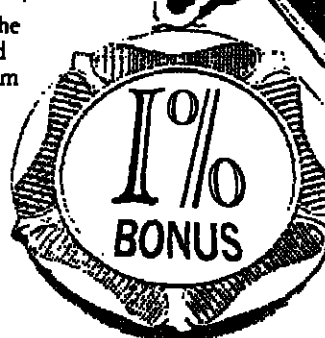
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A contract for the purchase of units in the Fidelity South East Asia Trust will normally be sent within 5 days. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 10 working days of receipt of settlement. The current estimated gross yield for Fidelity South East Asia Trust is 11.5% at the offer price of £10.00 per unit. This may be sold on any day at the bid price ruling. You will receive a cheque within 7 working days of our receiving your required certificate. The Trust will pay dividends on a half yearly basis on 30th September. An annual charge of 0.5% is included in the offer price of units, of which the Managers will pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rules are available upon request. The Trust will pay a 1% annual charge to the Managers out of income (or capital if there is insufficient income) of 1% plus 1% of the value of the fund. Check your investment prices and yields in the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, and Sunday Times. The Trust is a member of the Investment Committee of the Department of Trade and Industry. Member of the Unit Trust Association. Offer not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY

Mother and baby get a little less

This week saw the abolition of the Maternity Grant.

The £25 payment, the only handout for every new mother regardless of status, is the latest casualty of government measures to reorganize maternity rights. Originally the grant was worth the average male wage. Today that would be nearly £165, but the payment has remained unchanged, and has now been scrapped.

The move leaves many new mothers without any financial help to meet the cost of having a baby, and in protest nearly 3,000 women attended a rally last Monday at Central Hall, Westminster, organized by Maternity Emergency, a campaign launched by the Maternity Alliance.

Its aim was to convince politicians of the importance of a deal offering mothers financial security and the right to continue work after childbirth with no loss of prospects.

Maternity benefits date back to the 1911 Health Insurance Act, but help for working women is relatively recent. The right to maternity pay and leave and to protection against dismissal because of pregnancy were introduced only 10 years ago. But since then there has been a steady erosion of other financial and legal benefits.

The Maternity Allowance, working women's main benefit, has been steadily run down. In 1980, a 5 per cent cut was imposed in lieu of taxation. Earnings-related supplements to the Maternity Allowance were abolished in 1982, and extra payments of £2.20 for every additional child ceased two years later.

A White Paper entitled *Building Businesses... not Barriers* contains proposals

which would further limit women's rights.

Payment of the Maternity Allowance is to become the job of employers, and the money will go only to women in work. At the moment women without jobs are also eligible for the allowance if they have been signing on as unemployed for the whole of the relevant tax year. In future they will be entitled to only nine weeks' sickness benefit instead of the 18-week Maternity Allowance. An estimated one in five mothers will lose up to £530 each.

Free milk and vitamins are also heading for the chop and will be available only to families on Supplementary Benefit. Women's rights to job protection have also been reduced. In 1978 women employed for more than six months were able to keep their jobs after childbirth. By 1985 they had to have been with the same employer for more than two years.

The 1980 Employment Act gave employers the right to offer women similar alternative work instead of having to give them back the same job. Women working in firms with five employees or fewer had no right to reinstatement and the Government wants to extend that to firms of up to 10 workers.

According to Maternity Emergency, Britain has the worst employment rights for pregnant women in Europe, and is the only EEC country to oppose the right of fathers to have time off when their child is born. In Luxembourg, every new baby receives £627, in Belgium women can expect at least £146. In Britain, every mother could count on at least £25. That was until this week.

Kate Brown

It's a May day start for the new National Savings certificates

The Department of National Savings announced this week that the new 33rd issue Savings Certificates will be on sale from May 1.

Interest, which is tax-free, is guaranteed to work out at 7 per cent per annum for investors who hold on to the certificates for five years. For anyone cashing certificates in earlier, the rate paid will be 5.5 per cent after year one, 5.75 per cent after the second year, 6 per cent after the third year and 6.5 per cent at the end of the fourth year.

The minimum investment is £25 and the maximum holding is £1,000. Special facilities exist for additional holdings of up to £5,000 for investors who want to reinvest the proceeds of existing matured certificates. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this should apply direct to the Savings Certificate Office, Durham DH99 1NS.



At the same time, it was announced that the General Extension Rate on matured certificates will come down from 7.5 per cent to 7.02 per cent per annum from May 1.

It will be interesting to see how the building societies react to these announcements. In spite of the cut in the mortgage rate, the societies have upheld the rates paid to depositors, and in some cases improved them, in order to boost inflows.

Caring for the children

Accidents will happen — at home, at school and on holiday. In fact, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents says more than 2,000 children under 15 require hospital treatment because of accidents every day.

To ease the financial burden, Personal Assurance has launched a new accident compensation plan. Childsafe provides round-the-clock cover for children aged from four to 18, and is effective anywhere in the world. Claims arising from any sporting accidents, including skiing injuries, will be met. However, accidents that occur as a result of war, self-inflicted injury, attempted suicide or injury caused through alcohol or drug abuse are not covered.

Unlike similar policies on the market offered by Brown Shipley and Norwich Union, which simply pay a lump sum where a child suffers permanent disability as the result of an accident, Childsafe also alleviates the inevitable out-of-pocket expenses arising from a child's stay in hospital.

The amount of benefit payable under Childsafe depends on the nature of the accident and the size of the premium. A maximum of £900 a month is payable in cash from the child's first night in hospital, and is available for up to a year. At the end of the year, if permanent disability has been suffered, a lump sum is paid, ranging from £750 to a £50,000 maximum. Where an accident results in loss of life, a lump sum payment of up to £2,000 is payable.

There are two levels of premium. One, costing £6.70 a month, provides full benefit. The other, at £3.35, gives half the benefits. A 25 per cent discount on the premium rate is available for members of a group, such as a parent-teacher association.

A winner for fathers

School fees are guaranteed to make a fairly sizeable hole in anyone's pocket. However, the burden could now be eased for divorced fathers who have custody of their children. In a case decided in the House of Lords this week a divorced father won his battle to have a court order against himself for payment of his children's school fees, and so qualify for tax relief.

School fees planning specialists are interpreting this to mean that only fee payments

made from the father's income would be eligible for tax relief. Consequently, a father planning ahead for school fees by using an educational trust would not qualify for this relief, as the payments are made by the trustees of the trust to the school.

However, Dennis Hulls, of School Fees Insurance Agency, thinks a father who obtains a court order against himself may benefit by taking out a savings plan that is not designed specifically for the payment of school fees. He could reduce the amount produced by the plan in anticipation of the tax relief.

PEPs & Prosper

Save & Prosper claimed this week that the value of the first block of shares to be bought for its Personal Equity Plan (PEP) Managed Portfolio had increased by 12 per cent (offer-to-bid) between January 23, when the shares were purchased, and March 31.

The portfolio currently comprises 10 shares: British Telecom, Coats Vyelet, Dees Corporation, Glaxo, Prudential, GUS, NatWest, P&O, RTZ and Tarmac. Of these, Glaxo has been the star performer, up 22 per cent over the two-month period. S&P says there are no immediate plans to change the portfolio.

Meanwhile, Mrs Yvonne Williamson, a 32-year old music teacher from Reading, Berkshire, has been presented with £500 worth of unit trusts after being named by Lloyds Bank as its 25,000th PEP investor.

Act of charity

The West of England Building Society has launched the Gross Interest Treasurer's Cheque Account, designed to meet the needs of all charities and organizations that are exempt from tax.

The account can be opened with £100, and the maximum balance is £500,000. Cheques can be written for any amount and cash withdrawals can be made of up to £250 a day. Sixty free cheques are offered each year. Thereafter a charge of up to 60p per cheque may be levied. Interest is earned up to the day cheques are presented for payment.

The gross rate of interest paid ranges from 5.5 per cent for balances of £100-£499 to 11.5 per cent on amounts of £500,000 or more. The account must be kept in credit, but sums of less than £100 will not attract interest. Interest is paid annually on December 31.

This account complements the society's Treasurer's Cheque Account, which has tax deducted at the basic rate.

Building societies are permitted to pay interest gross to only three groups: non-residents, charities or bodies with charitable status and friendly societies and pension funds. All accounts of individuals resident in the UK have Composite Rate Tax deducted at source — this was reduced to 24.75 per cent for the new tax year. For non-individual accounts, which are liable to tax, building societies deduct the basic rate of income tax.



Rating your home

Following our item on rates last week, a number of readers have contacted us regarding the statement that the rateable value of your home is set by the council. Our source was an authoritative text book that has proved reliable in the past. When contacted, the publishers apologized for the error and added that the mistake had been amended.

In fact, the rateable value of a property is determined by making certain reductions from its gross value, which is assessed, subject to the rights of objection and appeal to a local valuation court, by the district valuer and valuation officer. This appointment is held by a civil servant employed by the Inland Revenue.

GO FOR GOLD

With many of the major international stockmarkets showing signs of nervousness after their recent rapid and substantial rises, more and more investors are turning to gold, one of the most dependable and durable investments in the world, as a hedge against uncertainty.

And one of the easiest ways to benefit from an increasing gold price is to invest in the top-performing, award-winning MIM Britannia Gold Trust.

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*To 30th March 1987 — OPAL — offer to bid, net income re-invested

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below, or call our unit trust dealers on 01-636 0478/9. The minimum investment is only £500.

For your guidance, the offer price of accumulation units as at 8th April 1987 was 98.2p and the estimated gross yield was 0.09% p.a. Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

Acknowledgement will be sent and certificates issued within 30 days. Unit prices and yields are published daily in leading national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the managers at not less than the current bid price calculated to a formula approved by the Department of Trade and Industry. An initial management charge of 5.25% on the assets is included in the price of units and a service charge at an annual rate of 1% (VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the Trust's gross income, although the Trust Deed allows a maximum annual charge of 2% (VAT). The Trust Deed permits investment in traded options and in secondary markets within the guidelines laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Trust's distribution dates are 15th September and 15th March in respect of the period ending 15th July and 15th January respectively. Income from Accumulation Units is invested net of the basic rate of income tax to increase the unit value. Income Units distribute their income either to the holder's registered address or by mandate direct to a bank account. Remuneration is payable to qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request.

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FAMILY MONEY/3

The sell-off that small investors could miss

Rolls-Royce could be the last privatization before the next general election. AMANDA PARDOE assesses the prospects



The return of Rolls-Royce to the private sector is a further milestone in the Government's privatization programme," said Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, when launching the pathfinder prospectus for the state-owned aero-engine maker this week.

However, anyone whose experience of investing in equities has been confined to privatizations would be ill-advised to equate the Rolls-Royce privatization with that of British Gas.

When the Government sold off British Airways in February, it made clear that it was not intending to appeal to the nation's Sids, despite holding roadshows and staging a catchy television advertising campaign. This time, it has been less direct. However, the indications are that Rolls-Royce is being aimed primarily at the institutions.

Although Mr Channon said at the launch that "applications from small investors will be just as welcome as any other," the proposals for allocating the shares suggest many individuals could be disappointed.

In fact, although no figures were given, Christopher Clarke, a director of Samuel Montagu & Co, the Government's financial advisers, stated that "a significant proportion" of the shares will be placed with institutions, with the balance being offered to the general public and eligible UK employees and pensioners of Rolls-Royce.

If there is a substantial

demand for shares from private investors, a percentage of the placing with institutional investors will be clawed back. But precise details were not given, and the possibility of applications being scaled down if this situation arises should not be ruled out.

Further indications that the Government is not going out of its way to attract small investors this time are the absence of any bonus shares for people who retain their holding, and the relatively high minimum investment level of 400 shares.

Although the prospectus gives no indication of the offer price, market analysts suggest it will probably be £1.50 to £1.60. This would mean a minimum initial investment of at least £300, representing the first of two payments, and considerably more than the £50 first instalment allowed to investors in British Gas. Rolls-Royce is clearly pitched to deter any would-be first-time investors.

Anyone with a portfolio made up entirely of holdings in the companies sold off by the Government, however, may not be put off. Indeed, based on the performance of privatizations to date, investors could be forgiven for thinking that a handsome profit is only to be expected. As the table shows, the shares of all these companies have appreciated quite considerably since they came to the market. Bar the odd hiccup, several of the issues have consistently offered an attractive return.

The most disappointing results have come from the oil and energy sector, with both Britoil and Enterprise Oil trading well below their respective offer prices last summer. Both stocks, however, have rallied and now

offer an acceptable return to anyone who has kept them.

But the performance, past and present, of other privatizations should not be the justification for investing in Rolls-Royce. As with any investment, the prospectus should be examined in detail and careful consideration should be given to the standard of management expertise as well as the quality and marketability of the company's products.

Rolls-Royce has certainly experienced problems in the past. However, since it was rescued by the Government in 1971, there have been a number of significant changes. Rolls-Royce is no longer a one-product company - it now has a broad technology base and offers a wider range



Rolls-Royce in action: Tornado strike aircraft powered by two RB119 Turbofan engines

of products. And, as a result of improved organizational and management structures, the group has been able to reduce its workforce while maintaining its production capacity.

One of the problems faced by companies in the aero-engine industry is that business tends to be cyclical. However, Ralph Robins, the managing director of Rolls-Royce, maintains the company can overcome this to a certain extent because a substantial amount of its revenue is generated from the

provision of spares, which account for a third of the group's sales.

The effect of the changes at Rolls-Royce are borne out by the growth in profits recorded in recent years. During the past three years the company's pre-tax profits have risen from £26 million in 1984 to £120 million in 1986. And, although the chairman, Sir Francis Tombs, said the achievements of 1986 should not be extrapolated into extravagant forecasts for 1987, he did comment that "with outstanding orders worth £3.1 billion, the prospects for 1987 are encouraging".

Around 250,000 private investors have already expressed an interest in Rolls-Royce through its share information office, and no doubt this number will rise considerably after the start when its television advertising campaign starts.

Although the aero-engine

industry is far from a safe bet, Rolls-Royce could prove a worthwhile investment. The precise number of shares being offered has not been announced, but it will comprise 635 million plus the additional shares required to inject a further £283 million into the company.

One particular fear that some prospective investors may have is what action the Labour Party would take if it won the forthcoming general election. At its conference last autumn, Labour reaffirmed its commitment to social ownership, and said that in the event of the company being privatized, "we will not hesitate to acquire a strategic stake in Rolls-Royce".

Labour said: "Because the company will inevitably require research and other public funding (often for major projects) Labour will require equity participation by the Government in return for the public finance provided."

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Tuesday, April 28. Impact day: Price of the shares will be announced with full details of the terms and conditions of the offer.

Thursday, April 30. Prospectus expected to be published in newspapers.

Thursday, May 7. At 10am offer for sale closes.

Monday, May 11. By 9am

allocation of shares will be announced.

Monday, May 18. Renounceable letters of allocation expected to be posted.

Tuesday, May 19. At 9am dealing in shares expected to begin.

Wednesday, September 23. Second (and final) instalment due.

HOW THE PRIVATIZATIONS STAND

	Issue price	Current price
BRITISH PETROLEUM (Oct 79 first tranche Sept 83 second tranche)	360p 435p	903p
BRITISH AEROSPACE Feb 81 first tranche May 85	150p 375p	658p
CABLE AND WIRELESS (Oct 81 first tranche Dec 83 second tranche Dec 85 third tranche)	160p 275p 367p	368p
AMERSHAM INTERNATIONAL Feb 82	142p	527p
BRITOL Nov 82 first tranche Aug 85 second tranche	215p 185p	255p
ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS Feb 83 first tranche Apr 84 second tranche*	112p 270p	470p
ENTERPRISE OIL June 84	185p	252p
JAGUAR July 84	165p	563p
BRITISH TELECOM Nov 84	130p	251p
BRITISH GAS Nov 85	135p**	91p
BRITISH AIRWAYS Feb 87	125p†	128p

* One-for-one scrip issue 1986
† Shares partly paid (50p) Remainder payable June 1987 (45p) and April 1988 (40p)
‡ Shares partly paid (50p) Remainder payable August 1987 (80p) Current prices taken on April 8

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The Budget has been excellent news for consumers.

Interest rates have been cut. Mortgage rates are set to go down. Income tax is set to fall. And, with consumer spending rising, cash registers are set to ring all around the country.

But who will really benefit from this record spending? Take a good look at your bank or credit card statement. It all adds up to more money for the big High Street shops such as Sainsbury's, Dixons and The Burton Group. And more profits for the manufacturers of the goods they sell, like Nestlé, Allied Lyons, Amstrad and Bechams.

UK SPENDING BOOM

Total U.K. consumer expenditure has risen by a dramatic £29* billion over the past three years - and that has meant substantial profits for the British High Street. In just 1 year, shares in companies owning the big supermarkets have risen by an average of 29%; while those of the big store groups have jumped by 36%. At the bottom of the same High Street, however, the deposits in Building Societies have increased by a mere 7.8%!

However, the bonanza is not just in this country. Consumer spending and High Street profits are booming in many other parts of the world too. In the USA, expenditure has increased by £233* billion in three years. In Japan, by £108* billion. While, in Europe, it has increased by a staggering £265* billion.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Invest by 16 April 1987 at the fixed price of 50p per unit and receive a 1% special launch bonus investment of £500 or more. You can choose between distribution units, on which the income is paid to you - or accumulation units, where the income is automatically reinvested to increase the value of your units. In view of the low yield common to this type of trust, estimated to be 2% gross on 27 March 1987, the Managers recommend that you invest in accumulation units - and, unless you request otherwise, these will automatically be allocated to you.

An acknowledgment will be issued and you will receive a unit certificate, normally within 42 days. After the expiry of 16 April 1987 you can buy and sell units on any business day at the ruling price. These are published daily in leading newspapers. Payment for units sold - which will be their bid price - will normally be made within 7 business days of receipt of your renounced unit certificate.

On 1 June each year, unitholders will receive an income tax voucher - and distribution unitholders will also receive their net distribution entitlement. The first Managers Report will be sent to unitholders on 1 December 1987. Subsequent Reports will be issued half-yearly on 1 June and 1 December.

An annual charge of 5.25% - plus a rounding up adjustment, is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 1% of the value of the fund (plus VAT) is deducted from the trust's income monthly for fees and expenses - although the Trust Deed permits a maximum charge of 2% (plus VAT) after 3 months' notice. Renunciation is paid to qualified beneficiaries. Rates are available on request.

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*growth March 1987 over March 1986 Source: Greenwell Mortgage
*Source: FTBIS figures are growth 1985 over 1983
Source: Financial Times Business Information Service

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SHARE IN THE CASH REGISTER BONANZA...

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Source: Financial Times Business Information Service

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I/we enclose cheque made payable to you for: £ (Min. £250)

in the International High Street Unit Trust (after 16 April units will be allocated at the offer price ruling on that date)

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) _____

Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I hold a Midland Bank High Interest Current Account No _____

JOINT APPLICANTS SHOULD ALL SIGN AND INCLUDE DETAILS ON A SEPARATE SHEET

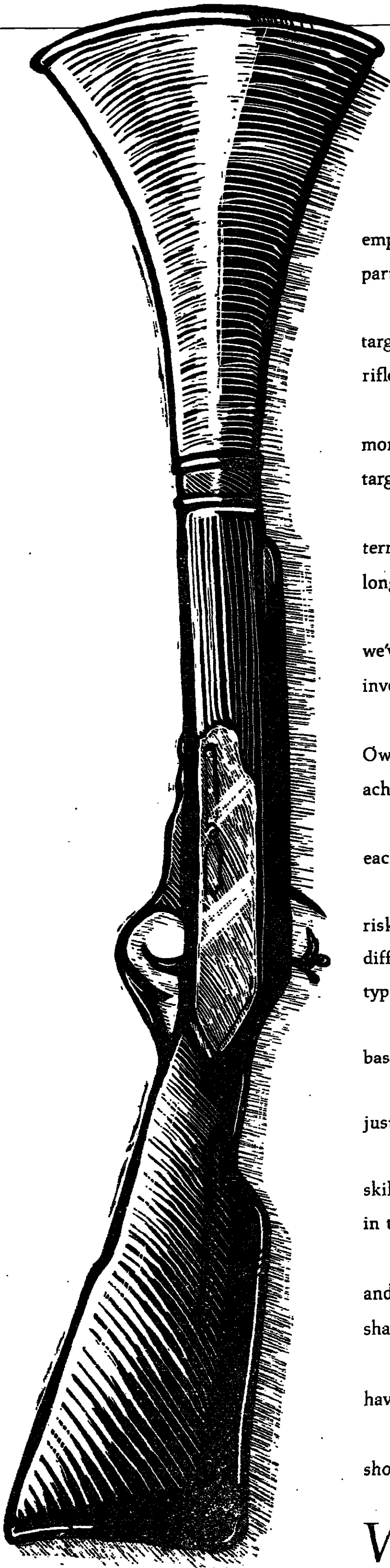
For Regular Savings Plan details For Share Exchange Scheme information (Please tick)

(The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland)

TVM

Midland Bank

WHICH ONE DO WE USE WHEN WE'RE HUNTING FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS?



While some companies may employ the shotgun approach, it has never been part of our armoury.

We prefer to carefully select our target with the efficiency and precision of a rifle.

We'll often, for example, spend months researching the value and potential of a target company.

This may be expensive in the short term, but it undoubtedly pays dividends in the longer term.

Even a quick look at the companies we've acquired proves the value of such careful investigation and rigid strategic criteria.

Through Halfords, Payless, Zodiac, Owen Owen and more recently Whitlock we are achieving three important goals.

We are improving the profitability of each company (and therefore our own profits).

We are spreading our shareholders' risk through different consumer markets, different geographic locations and different types of business.

And we are providing a diversified base for secure, long term growth.

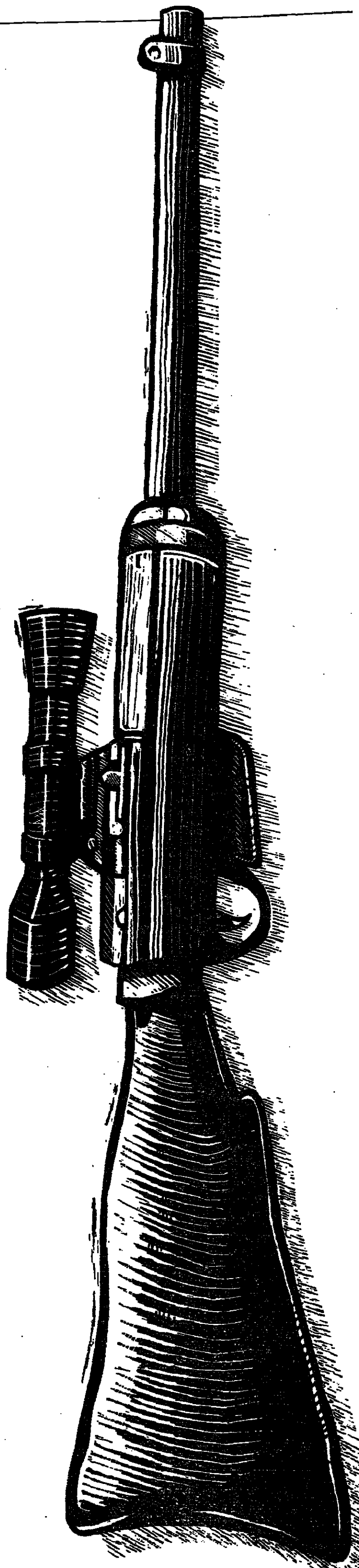
We are achieving this because we don't just invest money in buying companies.

We also invest our management skills, market knowledge and financial resources in the future of those companies.

Our target, you see, is to continually and consistently increase the value of our shareholders' investment.

For which, we believe, it's essential to have the precise aim of a rifle.

Instead of the scattered effect of a shotgun.

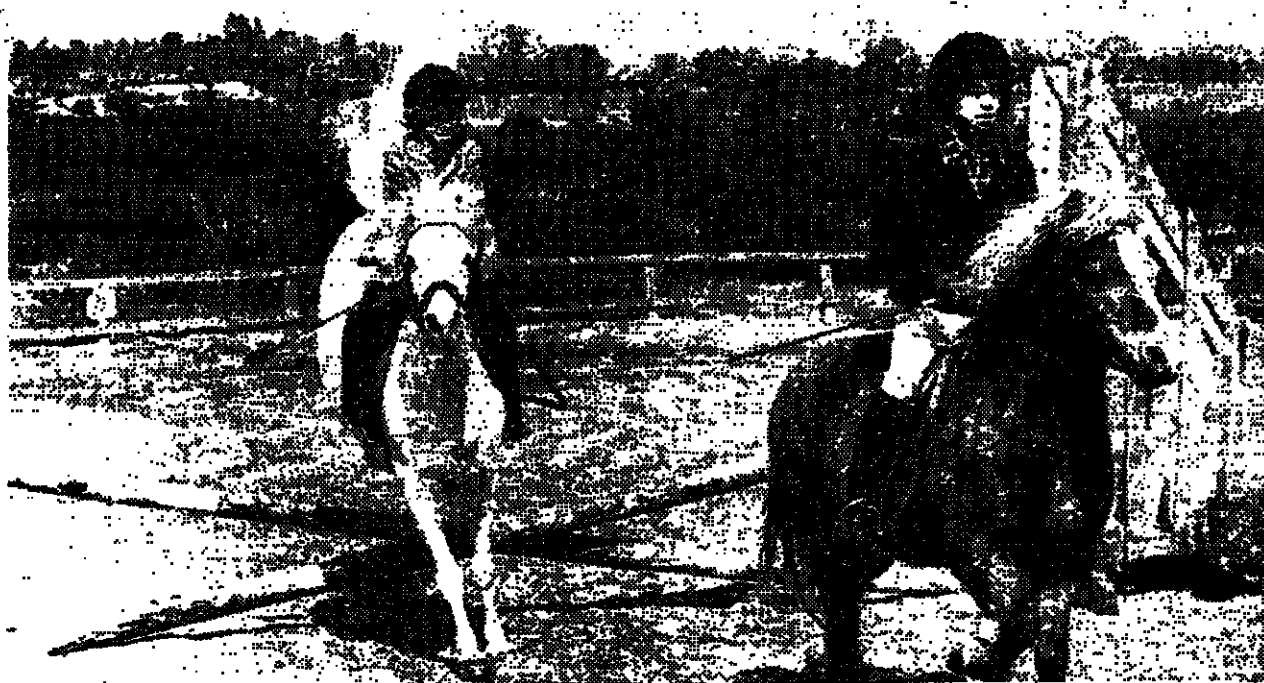


WARD WHITE 
THE BUSINESS OF GROWTH

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Horses and hidden extras



Riding is jolly good fun, but parents who are buying a pony for junior should make sure they do their sums first

This is the time of year when every horse-mad little girl pleads with her parents to let her have her own pony — she knows a farmer who will let her have some grazing and it won't cost them anything to keep except a few bales of hay. Before Mum and Dad succumb to Emily's wishes, thinking that the horse or pony — the difference is purely a matter of size — will live on a patch of grass, it might be as well to study the realistic sums of money involved.

In fact, the cost of a mount, anything from £350-£400 for a child's pony to £1,000-£1,500

will have a bearing on the amount you have to budget for its keep. Only sturdy native types such as mountain and moorland breeds can be kept out at grass all year round. Finer-boned steeds need stabling from October through until May.

You may know a friendly farmer willing to hire grazing for around £6 per week. However, most owners avail themselves of the services offered by riding or livery stables. Basically the facilities can be broken down into four categories.

First there is full livery. This is tantamount to boarding the pony at a first-class hotel. Allow at least £35 a week. For this amount, it is stabled, fed, groomed, and exercised. The owner misses out on the fun of looking after the mount but does not need to rush out with a bucket in foul weather.

The stable is unlikely to need to be reminded about extras to be included in the bill: shoeing (£14-£15 every six weeks), routine worming (£4.50 per treatment), and clipping (£18-£20) in winter.

The part-livery type of arrangement is where a pony is stabled at night, with a feed, but turned out by day. Or stabled, fed and mucked out, leaving the owner to exercise and groom and clean tack. Allow £20-£25 per week. With a working livery

arrangement, the pony gets its keep at a reduced cost in return for the owner allowing an agreed number of other riders to use it. Allow £15-£20 per week.

DIY is the most popular arrangement. The owner rents a box from the stable but takes full responsibility for the mount, its bedding and feeding. Allow approximately £8-£10 per week.

So far as bedding is concerned, the price of straw — and hay — is determined by the quality and quantity of the season's crop. Think of four

Enthusiasts often split the costs

bales of straw per week for the stabled pony, and reduce by half if it is in only at night. Allow 60p to £1 per bale, with seasonal variations.

Ideally the pony should receive 2½lb of food daily for every 100lb bodyweight. Of this 75 per cent should be roughage and 25 per cent concentrates. Allow £1.60 to £2 per bale for hay, £9 per 50kg sack of pony cubes.

Allow £82.50 a year for insuring a pony worth £1,500 and set aside a further £20 for routine veterinary jabs against horse flu and tetanus. Entry fees at horse shows range from £2.50 per class to £3.50 or more at grander

events depending on the prize money. Also reckon on a cost of approximately 90p per mile for hiring a horse box to get to the venue. Enthusiasts invariably club together and split the costs.

And if the thought of all the expense strikes you as nothing short of horrendous, take comfort from the fact that if a pony is kept at grass continuously during the spring and summer months, and even if the cost of its box is maintained, a 30 per cent reduction in feed costs should be possible.

With the prospect of a programme of almost weekly gymkhanas, lots of usually sane little girls are gripped with incurable pony fever. But before buying the mount why not invest in a course of riding lessons at one of the many excellent schools approved by the British Horse Society? Allow approximately £6-£7 per hour, £10 for a private lesson.

Arda Lacey and Joan Palmer

The British Horse Society, British Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LR (see with inquiries)

Publications: Horse and Hound (Friday 70p), Your Horse (95p monthly), Horse and Rider (85p monthly), Pony (75p monthly).

What to tell the taxman this year

Fat buff envelopes are now dropping through letterboxes all over Britain. These contain the Inland Revenue Tax Return 1987-88.

The season has arrived when the taxman wants to know how you have been doing financially during the 12-month period ending last Sunday, April 5.

If your affairs are reasonably complicated, the chances are that you will be sent the eight-page brown Form 11P (1987). Over the years the Revenue has commendably spent a lot of time and effort on the design of forms, but, nevertheless, Form 11P remains at first glance a formidable document.

Form 11, the blue form, is sent to people whose finances are relatively straightforward and it looks less intimidating as a result.

However, if the taxman sees that your situation has changed, for example, if you have started a business, the chances are that you will be moved over to the brown forms in future.

Not everyone is sent a tax return every year. For most people paying tax at the basic rate of 27 per cent, it is not necessary because their affairs are sufficiently simple.

For example, they probably just have employment income

You must not ignore the inspector

from which PAYE tax is already deducted; perhaps they also have a mortgage but the interest relief is given automatically at source.

Even if they have a few unit trusts or a bank or building society account, tax will be paid before the investor receives the interest.

There is, therefore, virtually nothing to report and so the Revenue will send such people only the occasional tax return every few years.

If you are not sent a tax return to complete but there is some information that you ought to report to the Revenue, you should write immediately to the inspector of

taxes and ask him to let you have a return. Just because the taxman has ignored you for a few years, you do not have the right to ignore him.

If you start receiving a source of new earnings or you have income that has not been taxed, for example, from the National Savings Bank or gilts bought through the Post Office, the onus is on you to inform him.

Is it worth employing an accountant to complete your return?

The answer depends on a number of factors. The simpler your finances, the more likely it is that you will be able to cope by yourself. The tax offices are generally very prepared to help people complete their forms properly. And even if your affairs are reasonably complicated, you could find that the task is quite manageable if you have sufficient clear-headedness and a reasonable basic knowledge of tax.

Using an accountant to fill in your return is only partly a question of drawing on his or her fiscal expertise. Knowing how to calculate the capital gains tax indexation relief or judging what expenses are allowable for a landlord are part of an accountant's stock in trade.

However, much of it will involve buying someone else's professional time to carry out a job many people find very tedious.

Plenty of taxpayers are temperamentally unsuited to such jobs. They put off the dread task for months or even years and when they finally get round to doing it, the chances are that so much time has elapsed that various important items are left out and the taxman starts to impose penalties.

On the front of both the blue and the brown forms, there is a note requiring you to send back the return within 30 days. Fortunately for the huge majority of taxpayers, the Revenue does not generally enforce this particular time limit.

But where there is a "substantial" delay in sending

Annual reckoning: the form for revealing all

happens substantial investments or business interests, completing the tax return will simply be part of the provision of overall tax planning advice and possibly a relatively minor aspect.

Even if you do hand over the completion of your return to a professional, that does not relieve you of the responsibility for its accuracy and truthfulness. You must still personally sign the form stating that to the best of your knowledge and belief the particulars are correct and complete. So it is still important for you to understand and to follow what has been put in the return.

Outside help is bound to be required where husband and wife file separate returns and do not want to disclose their financial affairs to each other. Because their tax positions impinge on each other (for example, with income and capital gains), it is important that an accountant or other neutral party can help with

Man responsible for wife's statements

both the strategy and the checking of the Revenue's computations.

It is still a curious hangover of the British system from Victorian times that the husband is normally responsible for making sure that his wife's income and expenditure are correct on the joint return.

On the front of both the blue and the brown forms, there is a note requiring you to send back the return within 30 days. Fortunately for the huge majority of taxpayers, the Revenue does not generally enforce this particular time limit.

But where there is a "substantial" delay in sending

in a completed form, the taxman can charge interest. In practice, "substantial" normally means a year after the end of the tax year in question. So the revenue is normally likely to start charging interest next April if it has not received your 1987-88 tax return by that time.

However, if you have a substantial capital gain on which you should be paying tax for the year 1986-87, the Revenue is likely to raise interest penalties if you have not presented the information by November this year. It is important to remember that your tax return is just one of many sources of information provided to the Revenue. The figures you put in your return may be corroborated or possibly contradicted by other data that the taxman receives from elsewhere.

For example, your employer completes form P11D for all employees earning £8,500 or more. So make sure that your expenses and perks set out on Form P11D correspond to the ones on your return.

Banks and building societies make returns of interest paid out. Companies and businesses have to tell the taxman about payments to freelance workers. There are also many informal sources of information available to the Revenue.

On a practical point, it is worth making sure that the tax return is legible and easy to find. Where you do not have enough room on the form, use a separate sheet of paper, number it and refer to it in the form by the number.

During the next few weeks, we shall be looking at the tax return in more detail.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

COMING CLEAN



Sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll. Boy George tells the full story of his fall from grace, and his comeback, in a true life morality tale for the 80s.

ADLAND'S PERFECT COUPLES



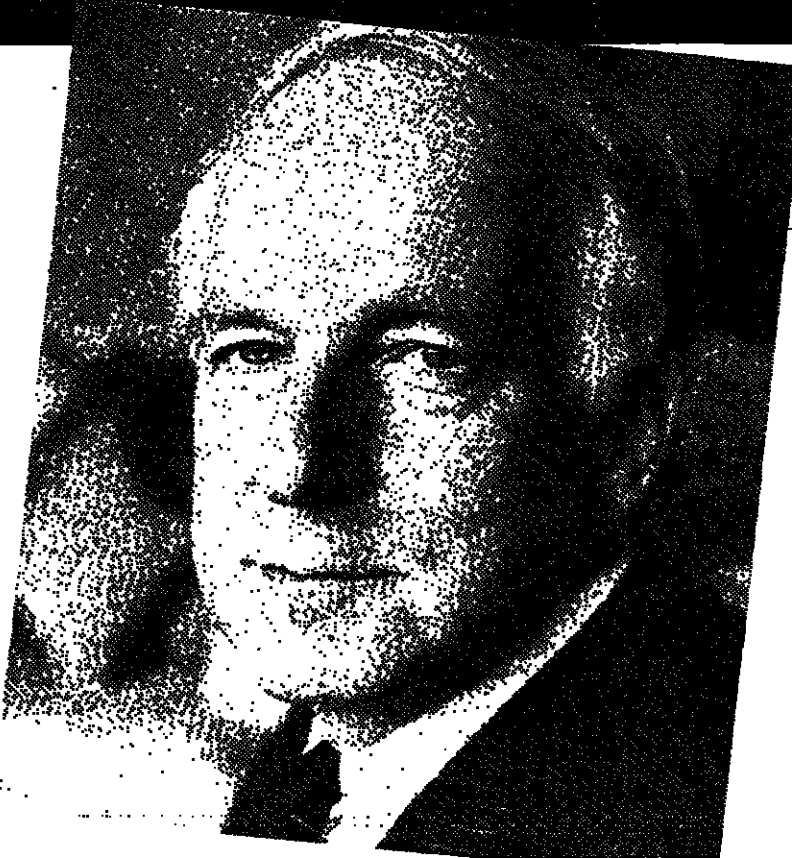
The lifestyle we're being sold on

MR DEATH

One in every 50 of you is going to be buried by this man



PLAYING DIRTY



The tangled web of the Guinness saga reached the High Court last week with an amazing battle of accusation and counter-accusation. We have the full story.

SOVIET CHIC

LOOK reports on the latest Moscow fashions



WIN £5,000 PLAYING SALEROOM



THE SUNDAY TIMES
MORE GOOD READING THAN A MONTH OF OTHER SUNDAYS

FAMILY MONEY/6

Gems among your junk

Family heirlooms may be worth a fortune. SALLY WATTS looks at current collectors' items

It is the surprise element that makes a valuation exciting. That cherished heirloom, whose value you have never been sure of, may indeed be worth quite a lot. Or it may not, "that old junk" may startle you by being worth a very acceptable sum.

In a few cases, owners are so impressed to learn the value of something they have left gathering dust for years that they take it straight to the bank.

Most people want to know the real worth of possessions that have been handed down through the family, and that is one reason why the valuations held around the country by a team from Christie's, the London auctioneers, are so well attended. When the experts visited Worcester recently, 1,000 people turned up and in the end the doors had to be locked.

Valuations are for charity and charges are modest, usually £2 for three items. If the owners wish, goods that are suitable for a Christie's auction are taken to London free of charge. The experts not only give you advice on the value, care and insurance of your possessions, but also tell you whether you would do

Wine-related objects are now valuable

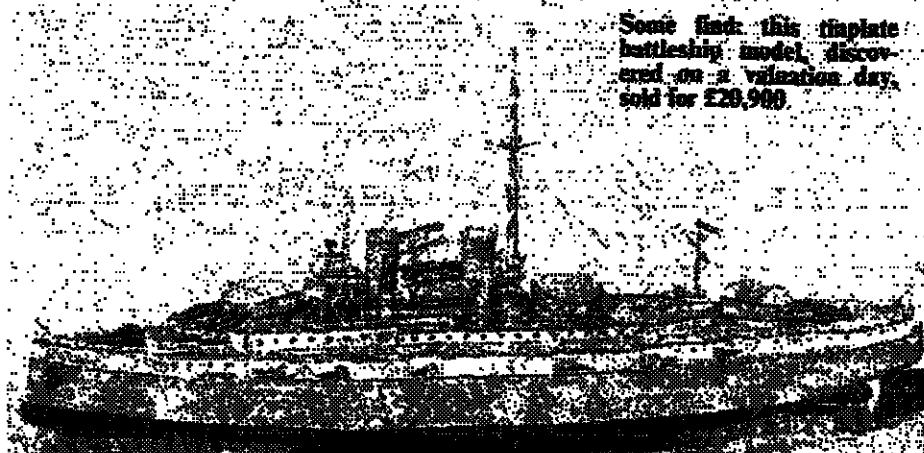
better to sell them locally or if you would get a higher price by keeping them longer.

Which categories are doing well at the moment? For a start, all wine-related objects, says James Collingridge, director in charge of valuations. These are generally 19th-century.

A plain claret jug is probably worth between £200 and £300. If the jug is of cut, frosted or etched glass with a silver neck, handle and mount, it should make at least £600. But if you have a novelty jug, perhaps in the shape of a bird — an eagle, for example — or a fish, you could expect it to sell for between £2,000 and £3,000.

Novelty also adds amazing value to functional objects from the 1930s, such as silverplate biscuit boxes shaped like dolls' houses, or a Sharpe's toffee tin in a trolley bus design. These are now worth several hundred pounds. "Don't underestimate ordinary metals," says Mr Collingridge.

The value of old toys, including those bought in the



Some find this tinplate battleship model, discovered on a valuation day, sold for £28,000

1930s, is not generally realized. If you own any soft toys by Steiff, or Noah's Ark animals by Elastolin, you can expect a good return. Perhaps you have tinplate toys by Bing, or the earlier mechanical variety by Marklin or Lehmann. All these sell well and should preferably be in their original boxes.

Do you have pharmaceutical equipment or early medical instruments? These do quite well in Christie's scientific sales. An early vaccinator from the end of the last century was recently auctioned for £200. But old watches are disappointing at present, except for the repeating variety, which do well.

Past venues for valuation sessions have ranged from Lincoln Cathedral and stately homes such as Knebworth, to schools, churches and a barn in Essex. Present bookings include Hertford on June 5, then Wicklow, Kilkenny, Cork, Limerick and Monaghan from June 8 to 12. More requests for visits are received than Christie's can meet.

If you are hoping to sell silver there are several points to remember. Sets of teaspoons and sugar tongs, for example, or tea knives, sell better in their display boxes, even if these are dilapidated. It is also better if they form a complete set, with every item made in the same year.

Hallmarks show the year and place of make, and can be interpreted with the aid of F. Bradbury's small *Book of Hallmarks* (Northend, £2.50). Don't allow polishing to obscure these marks. Christie's advises covering the hallmark with Sellotape when polishing. But do not over-polish. Silver should be dusted or washed in mild soapy water. If it is being stored, use acid-free tissue paper or plastic bags. Never secure cutlery with elastic bands as these are damaging.

Pre-1925 cologne bottles,

globular-shaped with a silver top, have recently "gone through the roof", according to Mr Collingridge. In plain glass they will make at least £80, and more, of course, in cut glass.

These bottles are among a number of dressing table items that were fashionable between the wars and make relatively good prices today. Others include silver-topped powder bowls and silver brush and mirror sets.

A nice mirror will sell by itself, though not the brushes. And if they have yellowed, they will need to be re-bristled, and that is expensive.

Most people know from insurance the value of jew-

Inherited jewellery is an unknown factor

ellery they have purchased fairly recently themselves. Handed-down pieces, however, are an unknown factor. Contrary to what many people believe, costume jewellery, even though it was fashionable to earlier generations, is of no great value.

But pretty, Edwardian diamond pieces and Victorian gold jewellery are having a great revival. Take, for example, Victorian muff or guard chains. A light chain might go for £150; a long, good, 18-carat version should be nearer four figures.

Owners are often surprised to discover that something is made of gold. If you are uncertain and want a piece tested, be sure to take it only to an established jeweller or auction house.

If you have inherited a box of trinkets and are going to a valuation, it is best to take the whole box. An expert will know at once what is good and what is ordinary.

As a general guide to saleable pictures, a pleasant, well painted 19th-century water-colour can make anything

from £100 to £150. Scenes from the former colonies, or painted by one of their artists, usually do quite well too.

Pictures from the last century are generally more successful than 20th-century works, apart from the well-known names, including Peter Scott. A Thorburn water-colour of bird life, painted in the early part of this century, turned up at a Christie's valuation — and was auctioned for £8,000.

Like other objects, pictures need to be seen by an expert before a price can be estimated. People often take small items of furniture to a valuation, but for larger objects it is better to take a photograph or send one to Christie's offices in London.

Finally, two cautionary notes. First, items picked up at sales or stalls are less likely nowadays to be of surprising value. Secondly, don't become too optimistic if you see something valuable on the *Antiques Roadshow* programme, which seems identical to one of your own possessions. On closer examination the two may well be dissimilar.

Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD (01-581 7611)

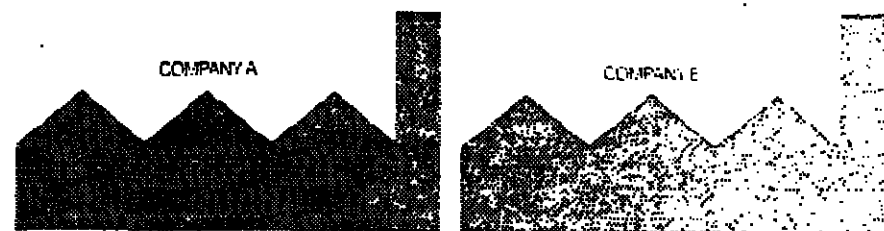
Portfolio — Gold —

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 27).

Share	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Weekly
1	+2	+1	-4	-4	+4		
2	+3	+2	-3	+6			
3	+4	+2	-3	+8			
4	+3	+1	-3	+8			
5	+3	+2	-4	+5			
6	+5	+1	-3	+8			
7	+5	+1	-1	+5			
8	+3	+1	-4	+3			
9	+4	+2	-1	+5			
10	+3	+2	-5	+5			
11	+2	+2	-4	+7			
12	+4	+1	-3	+3			
13	+3	+1	-2	+7			
14	+4	+2	-4	+8			
15	+4	+2	-2	+4			
16	+4	+1	-3	+9			
17	+3	+4	-4	+4			
18	+2	+1	-3	+7			
19	+3	+2	-4	+6			
20	+5	+2	-3	+5			
21	+2	+1	-4	+4			
22	+7	+1	-3	+8			
23	+3	+1	-2	+6			
24	+6	+3	-3	+4			
25	+3	+2	-3	+7			
26	+5	+3	-2	+7			
27	+3	+4	-4	+5			
28	+7	+2	-2	+5			
29	+2	+1	-3	+8			
30	+5	+1	-2	+8			
31	+5	+1	-2	+4			
32	+3	+3	-2	+7			
33	+7	+2	-4	+7			
34	+5	+4	-4	+4			
35	+4	+3	-1	+5			
36	+5	+3	-3	+6			
37	+3	+1	-4	+9			
38	+7	+2	-3	+4			
39	+5	+1	-5	+3			
40	+7	+2	-3	+8			
41	+2	+3	-3	+4			
42	+3	+3	-2	+5			
43	+4	+1	-2	+8			
44	+3	+2	-3	+7			

APRIL PERFORMANCE BONUS

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Alternatively, contact your professional adviser or return the coupon for further information.

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

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In 1986, as everyone knows, the clever money was in Far Eastern funds. If you had known then what you know now, you could have more than doubled your investment over the year.

But that is now all in the past.

What could be the top performers for this year?

To find out, join us on a trip across the globe to visit the high technology industries of North America.

THE UP'S & DOWN'S OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY

In the early '80s the explosive demand for new computer hardware and software took technology stocks to the top on Wall Street.

Then, over supply, fierce competition and a rising Dollar caused setbacks which lasted right through to the latter part of '86.

Now, the situation has changed again. The US economy is slowly recovering and the fall in the Dollar is driving away foreign competition.

US growth unit trusts are beginning to perform well again. Technology stocks are surging.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFIT

Up among the leaders is Target Technology Fund. The Fund ranked 3rd and 4th out of over 100 North American Funds, over 3 and 6 months respectively to 31st March 1987.

We believe now is the time to buy, taking advantage of an opportunity to purchase units in a trust investing in a sector which until recently has underperformed the broad US market since 1983.

This is an aggressive way into the US market.

WE ARE 100% BEHIND HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Target Technology Fund is invested wholly in the high technology sector of the US stockmarket. We go only for businesses with high growth prospects: software houses, mini and microcomputer makers, companies pioneering the new field of office automation.

This portfolio is the perfect way to exploit the considerable potential of high-tech stocks.

If you are looking for capital growth, we suggest Target Technology Fund offers outstanding prospects.

SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER

We would like to make it clear that while we strongly recommend the US technology sector, it is a highly specialized area, offering above average rewards for above average risks.

Short term performance is not necessarily a guide to future growth. Remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Your investment should be considered long term.

1% DISCOUNT UNTIL 30th APRIL 1987

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APPLICATIONS FORM

TU 11/4

To: Target Trust Managers Ltd, FREEPOST, London WC1V 7BR

I wish to invest £ in Target Technology Fund (minimum £500) at the price ruling on receipt of this application less 1% discount until 30th April.

Please make your cheque payable to Target Trust Managers Limited.

Name

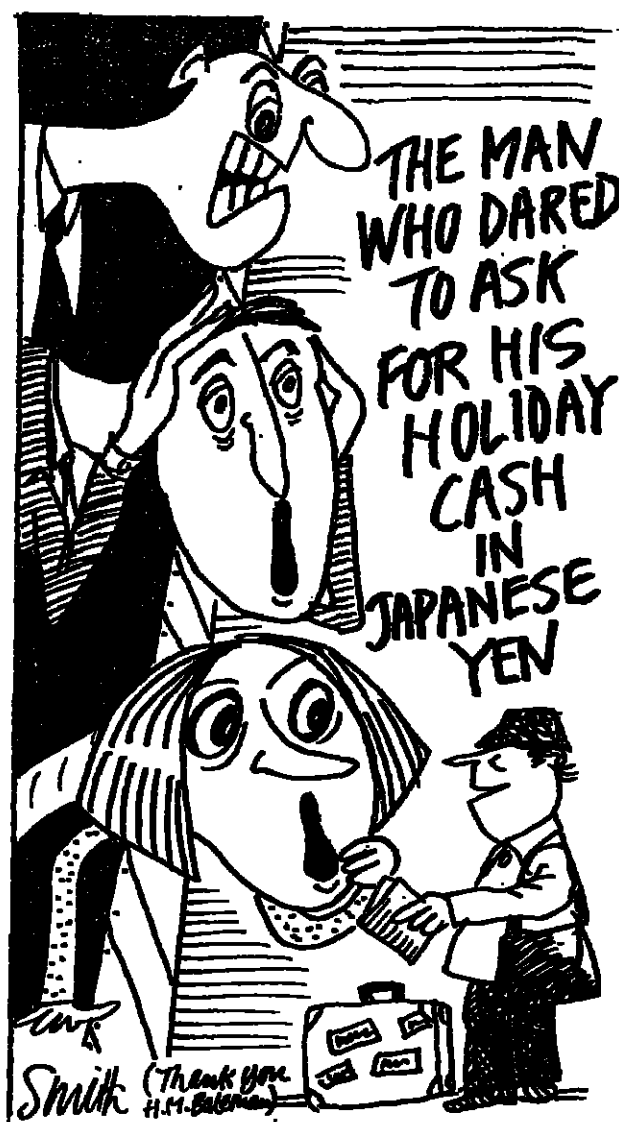
Address

Postcode

My professional adviser is

Please send details of how to exchange shares for unit trusts ☐ Please tick

FAMILY MONEY/7



The best cash to carry on your foreign holiday

Next weekend's Easter break is a popular time for a holiday abroad and there is now a real choice in the payment methods for overseas purchases. By careful financial shopping around before you go, there are several useful savings.

Although notes in foreign currency are helpful for small items — airport taxis and drinks — when arriving out of banking hours, there is a low limit imposed under holiday insurance cover. Travellers' cheques are safer.

All banks and most agencies charge 1 per cent commission on the issue of travellers' cheques with a minimum charge in some cases, such as £2 with Barclays and Lloyds and £3 with National Westminster. However, several building societies also offer travellers' cheques, such as Abbey National, Anglia, Birmingham Midshires (based in Wolverhampton), Bristol & West, Cheltenham & Gloucester and Nationwide, all on 1 per cent commission.

A few building societies offer the attraction of no commission, such as the Alliance & Leicester, which offers both sterling and US dollars, and Leeds Permanent, which has sterling cheques.

To plan spending better in advance, it is helpful to take such travellers' cheques in a foreign currency. Most clearing bank branches have a limited range of currencies to order. Barclays, Midland and NatWest have Japanese, while Lloyds and NatWest also offer Russian cheques.

The Eurocheque card is useful to the frequent traveller as it allows cheques to be written in 39 European countries. The card costs two and costs £3.50, year from Clydesdale, the Co-op, NatWest, Trustee Savings Bank and Yorkshire. It costs £4 with Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Lloyds and Midland but is free to students with the latter.

To clear the cheques, supported by a Eurocheque card, it costs 30p handling plus 1.6 per cent of the foreign currency value, except at the Midland, where it is 28p, and NatWest, where it is 29p. Midland advises that the rate

for the card will increase on June 1 to £5 annually.

It is worth considering travellers' cheques in ECUs (European Currency Units), so avoiding the loss in converting from one currency to another. The daily rates are quoted by both the banks and newspapers and are approximately 1.421 to the pound sterling. Hotels are increasingly accepting them. For instance, London's Inn on the Park accepts travellers' cheques at 1.43 ECU.

Among the clearing banks, Lloyds and Midland have pioneered ECUs in travellers' cheques. On Wednesday this week, Lloyds was quoting 1.411 ECU to sell and 1.425 ECU to buy, up to £10,000.

Credit cards remain firm favourites

worth. Midland, normally using Thomas Cook, which it owns, sells at 1.406 and buys at 1.436 ECU up to £5,000.

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THE NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Offices, Surrey Street, Norwich on Tuesday 12th May 1987 at 12.00 noon for the transaction of the following business—

To receive and consider the Reports of the Directors and Auditors and the Accounts for 1986.

To elect Directors in the place of those retiring.

To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Dated this 10th day of April 1987

By order of the Board
D P LISTER, Secretary
Surrey Street, Norwich



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Law Report April 11 1987

Justices must rule on confessions

Regina v Liverpool Juvenile Court, Ex parte R
Before Lord Justice Russell and Mr Justice Otton
[Judgment April 10]

In summary proceedings justices were bound by section 76(3) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to hold a "trial within a trial" if it were represented to them by a defendant that a confession by him which the prosecution proposed to adduce in evidence had, or might have been obtained either by oppression of the defendant or in consequence of anything said or done which was likely to render unreliable any confession which might be made in consequence thereof.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a judgment handed down on application by a minor aged 15, by his father and next friend, for judicial review by way of an order of mandamus requiring the Liverpool Juvenile Court to hold an inquiry by way of *voir dire* into the admissibility of a confession made by the applicant which the prosecution proposed to adduce as the only evidence demonstrating his guilt on a charge of burglary.

Section 76(2) of the 1984 Act provides: "If, in any proceedings where the prosecution proposes to give in evidence a confession made by an accused person, it is represented to the court that the confession was or may have been obtained—(a) by oppression of the person who made it; or (b) in consequence of anything said or done which was likely to render unreliable any confession which might be made by him in consequence thereof, the court

shall not allow the confession to be given in evidence against him except in so far as the prosecution proves to the court beyond reasonable doubt that the confession (notwithstanding that it may be true) was not obtained as aforesaid."

Mr Andrew G. Moran for the applicant; Mr David Maddison for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said that both the prosecutor and the applicant had invited the court to determine the admissibility of the applicant's confession as a preliminary issue, but the justice had refused on their clerk's advice that they could not hold a trial within a trial and that it would not be appropriate to decide admissibility on a preliminary point.

The applicant had contended that that advice was inappropriate having regard to sections 76 and 78 of the 1984 Act because section 76(2) caused the law to require justices to hold a trial within a trial to decide whether a confession was admissible.

He had argued that the subsection was mandatory and admitted of only one construction, namely, that the court had to decide, once a representation was made to it, whether a confession had been properly obtained before deciding whether to allow it to be given in evidence. That was a two-stage process — first the inquiry as to admissibility, and second the admission of the confession if and only if the first stage had been satisfied.

Prior to the 1984 Act, justices had had a discretion to consider whether in any particular case it was appropriate for them to

conduct a trial within a trial. The defendant said that section 76 had removed that discretion, once a representation had been made, but that there remained a discretion in the defendant whether to attack on a confession should be made in a trial within a trial or as part of the substantive hearing.

A trial within a trial had two advantages to a defendant: he would be able to give evidence confined to the issue of admissibility without exposing himself to cross-examination as to the truth of the confession (see *Wong Kam-ming v The Queen* (1980) AC 247), and he would know the strength of the case against him at the end of the prosecution case, which would affect his decision whether to give evidence in his defence.

His Lordship had concluded that all the applicant's submissions, which had not been resisted by the prosecution, were valid. Giving effect to them would not result in any insurmountable practical difficulties in magistrates' courts in the disposal of criminal offences; in some cases the new procedure would save time where the exclusion of confession evidence was finally ruled upon at the end of the prosecution case.

His Lordship would therefore rule that section 76(2) was that in summary proceedings justices must now hold a trial within a trial if it were represented to them by the defence that a confession had or might have been obtained by either of the improper processes appearing in section 76(2).

In such a trial within a trial the defendant might give evidence confined to the question of admissibility and the justices

would not then be concerned with the truth or otherwise of the confession.

Therefore the defendant was entitled to a ruling on the admissibility of a confession before or at the end of the prosecution case.

There remained a discretion in the defendant as to the stage at which to attack the alleged confession.

A trial within a trial would only take place before the close of the prosecution case if it were represented to the court that the confession was or might have been obtained improperly. If no such representation was made the defendant was at liberty to raise admissibility or weight of the confession at any subsequent stage of the trial.

"Representation" was not the same as, nor did it include cross-examination, and the court was therefore not obliged to embark on a trial within a trial merely because of a suggestion in cross-examination that the alleged confession had been obtained improperly.

Those rulings were confined to the prosecution evidence relating to the obtaining of a confession.

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Pharmacists' dispensing rule is not against Community law

Regina v Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Ex parte Association of Pharmaceutical Importers
Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment April 10]

The rule that, on presentation of a prescription for a drug, the pharmacist must dispense a product of the same name as the domestic product if it is available, is not in breach of article 30 of the EEC Treaty.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in refusing an application for judicial review by the Association of Pharmaceutical Importers against the policy of the Secretary of State for Social Services and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain as laid down in the guidance notes to the society's code of ethics.

Mr David Vaughan, QC and Mr Derrick Wyatt for the applicants; Mr John Peppitt, QC and Mr Robert Webb for the Pharmaceutical Society; Mr John Laws and Mr Nicholas Paines for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that as a result of the European Court of Justice ruling in *Case 104/75 De Peijper* (1976) ECR 613, the EEC was required to produce a licence (parallel import) system of licensing for sale in the UK imported drugs which were therapeutically identical with the domestic drug.

Where the parallel import bore the same name as the domestic product it could be dispensed in place of the domestic product. However the Pharmaceutical Society had ruled that if the parallel import drug had a different name it could not be dispensed on a prescription for the domestic product, consequently chemists would not buy those drugs.

The applicants contended that the society's ruling was a measure having equivalent effect to a quantitative restriction on the import of the parallel import drug and so violated article 30.

Although attracted to the applicants' argument, the court was driven to the conclusion that they could not succeed, because:

1 A doctor had a right to prescribe any product he liked which he believed would suit his patient.

2 A parallel import with a name different from the domestic product was a different article even though it was therapeutically and visually identical. The difference in name was both as a matter of common sense and as was clearly established in Community law, one of signifi-

cance: see *Case 3/78 Centrafarm BV v American Home Products Corporation* (1978) ECR 1823.

3 Doctors, dentists and veterinary surgeons were perfectly entitled, whether for good reason or bad, to choose the domestic product in preference to the parallel import and to prescribe accordingly.

The applicants' case contended either: (a) that doctors were to be assumed to be ordering not only the product named but also anything of identical therapeutic effect irrespective of its name; alternatively (b) that chemists should be permitted not to follow the doctor's prescription but to dispense instead a different article. The court could not accept either contention.

The case of *De Peijper* was not authority for the proposition that a member state had to treat a parallel import as in all respects and for all purposes as identical to the domestic product, even to the extent of enabling chemists to dispense the latter in purported compliance with a prescription for the former.

Indeed the court regarded *Centrafarm BV* as a powerful authority to the contrary underlining as it did the relevance of trade marks in Community law.

Mr Justice Simon Brown agreed.

Solicitors: S. J. Berwin & Co. Bermondsey; Walker, Martin & Co. Treasury Solicitor.

Driver has to understand warning

Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Constabulary v Singh
Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment March 12]

A driver could not be convicted of an offence of failing to supply at the police station two specimens of breath for analysis, contrary to section 8(7) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981, unless he had been warned of the penal consequences of failing to provide the specimens and had understood the warning.

He could be convicted of the offence of failing to provide at the roadside a specimen of breath under section 7(4), as substituted, even if he had not understood the consequences of his refusal to provide a specimen of breath for analysis, if he had understood the nature of the warning read out to him at the police station and the acquittal was correct.

Here there was doubt as to the respondent's ability to understand anything more than simple English and he could not be regarded as having understood the nature of the warning read out to him at the police station and the acquittal was correct.

Turning to the offence under section 7 where there was not a subsection relating to warning, as in section 8, the issue was whether the respondent had a reasonable excuse for refusing to provide a breath sample. Although a failure to understand

could amount to reasonable excuse under section 7(4) it did not in this case.

The respondent's refusal to supply the specimen requested was not because he did not understand but because at that stage he was putting forward a false story that he had not been driving. He should therefore have been convicted of that offence.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Bristol; Treasury Solicitor.

Notice to complete was valid

Naz v Raja and Others
A vendor of land who served a notice to complete, under condition 23 of the National Conditions of Sale (20th edition), but had not furnished the purchaser with an authority to inspect the register, as required by section 110(1) of the Land Registration Act 1925, could nevertheless be ready and willing to fulfil his own outstanding obligations under the contract for sale of the land.

Therefore the vendor's failure to furnish such an authority before serving such a notice did not of itself render the notice invalid.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Stocker) so held on April 7, dismissing an appeal by the defendants from an order of Mr Justice Whitford.

The judge on March 18 had vacated an order made by him against the plaintiff under a contract which the latter had purported to determine on the basis of the defendants' failure to comply with a notice to complete.

Council consultation not obligatory

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Southwark London Borough Council
Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice McNeill
[Judgment February 24]

The Secretary of State for the Environment was not obliged to consult the local planning authority before calling in a local plan for its approval under section 14(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

Likewise the Secretary of State was not obliged to hear the local planning authority before deciding to reject the plan under a local inquiry or other hearing as described in section 14(4)(d).

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in refusing an application for judicial review by the London Borough of Southwark against the secretary of state's decision to reject the borough's area plan for the Southwark area, which clashed with the London Docklands Development Corporation's plans for parts of the area.

Mr Robert Carnwarth, QC and Mr John Howell for the secretary of state; Mr Michael Barnes, QC and Mr Euan Carr for Southwark; Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mumery, QC and

Mr Craig Williams for London Docklands Development Corporation.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that he could not accept that the secretary of state was bound, under the principle of *audi alteram partem*, to consult the applicant authority before calling in the plan. It would be contrary to the principles of natural justice further than they had ever been carried before.

To attract the rules of natural justice administrative decisions had to be capable of affecting the rights, interests or expectations of the applicant. The only right claimed to be affected in this case was the right of the local authority to decide for themselves.

But the decision under section 14(3) was not a decision on the merits. It was a decision to decide. It was mere machinery.

His Lordship could see no unfairness to local authorities in holding that the secretary of state was not obliged to consult them before acting under section 14(3) and could see much needless waste of time if he were to hold the contrary.

In considering section 14(4) it was argued that if the secretary of state received and considered objections before making his decision he was obliged to give

the council an opportunity to reply.

His Lordship said that he might have accepted that submission if section 14(4) had been silent on the question of consultation, as was section 14(3). But it was not. It contained an elaborate code concerning the parties to be heard and the method for hearing them, including provisions in subsection 14(4d) for a local inquiry.

The necessary inference from section 14(4) was that if the secretary of state decided to reject the plan, he need consult nobody, not even if he had received and considered representations which were adverse to the plan.

Accepting that the rules of natural justice might supplement a statutory procedure, his Lordship said that the burden of showing that the secretary of state had failed to comply with the rules of natural justice when he had complied with the code was heavy.

Both the applicant's submissions were therefore rejected and the application failed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mr John B. Parker, Camberwell; Ashurst Morris Crisp & Co.

CRICKET

Scoreboard

Team	P	W	L	Run Rate	Pts
England	3	2	1	4.47	4
Pakistan	3	2	1	4.20	4
India	3	2	1	4.06	4

Bubbling over: Graham Dille helps to launch the Carphone captain of the month award (Photograph: Paul Lovelace)

Incentives for the champions at Hull

Wilander

Impressive Piquet faces a searching test from Mansell

TENNIS

of a cure

Royal date

The Prince and Princess of Wales will attend Glamorgan County Cricket Club's special 40-over centenary match against Gloucestershire in Cardiff on Monday July 6.

Malcolm Pyrah had taken his gamble before the competition started. He decided to put his second horse, Towerlands Di-

RESULTS: The Netherlands 3, Spain 2; Great Britain 2, Ireland 0; United States 4, South Korea 0.

Chester United's Aidan Murphy who has been on loan. The 19-year-old midfielder player has returned to Old Trafford.

Desert Orchid is unlikely to run in next Saturday's Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park. His trainer David Elsworth said at

entries. Amanda Harwood could pick up a double here on Red Shah in the ladies and on the improved Only For Love in his selected race.

The Royal Artillery meeting affords Mike Felton the opportunity of pulling back in

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Blackmore and Spinkfold Vale, Kingston, 2 miles east of Somerton on B5153 (first race 2.00). Chiddingfold, Leazeafield and Cowdray, Cowdray Park, half mile east of Mchurst off A272 (1.40). Puckeridge and Thunlow, Horseneath, 3 miles east of Linton off A504 (1.0). Royal Artillery, Larkhall, 3 miles north west of Arncroft off B4086 (1.30).

